Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-207
Thursday
28 October 1993

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-93-207 28 October 1993

CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Arab-Israeli Talks

Taba Talks Continue; Security Subcommittee Meets 1
Sides Agree on Prisoner Release Timetable *[MENA]* 1
Hamas, PFLP Prisoners' Release Discussed *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 27 Oct]* 1
Palestinians Submit Prisoner Criteria List *[DAVAR 27 Oct]* 1
Paper on Transfer of Authority Submitted *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 27 Oct]* 2
Palestinians Score Israeli 'Procrastination' *[MENA]* 2
Security Subcommittee Resumes Meetings *[Cairo Radio]* 2
PLO's Ra'fat Views Subcommittee Talks *[MENA]* 2
Palestinian Delegate Urges 'Good Faith' *[Jerusalem International]* 3
Subcommittee's Agenda for 28 Oct Accepted *[Jerusalem Radio]* 3
Security Subcommittee Concludes Meetings *[MENA]* 4
Fatah Hawks To Serve in Gaza Police Force *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4

Islamic Affairs

Envoy Highlights Kashmir Events At ICO Meeting *[Islamabad Radio]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

Israeli Opposition Accused of al-Saftawi Murder *[Cairo Radio]* 5
Jibril Recovering in Damascus After Heart Attack *[AL-BILAD 27 Oct]* 5
PFLP Official Reportedly Resigns Over Accord *[AL-BILAD 27 Oct]* 5
Qaray' Discusses Inter-Palestinian Differences *[London AL-HAYAH 25 Oct]* 5
Wider Inter-Palestinian Dialogue Planned *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Oct]* 6
New Fatah Commander Takes Over 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp *[VOL]* 7
First Palestinian Bank Planned in Ramallah *[MENA]* 7
Britain Grants PLO Mission High Commission Status *[Algiers VOP]* 7

OPEC Affairs

Iraqi Attendance at OAPEC Meeting Reported *[Baghdad Radio]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Dialogue Committee Talks With Socialist Forces *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Contacts With FIS Leader Denied *[Algiers Radio]* 8
Court Hands Down 18 Death Sentences, Jail Terms *[Algiers Radio]* 8
11 More Death Sentences Issued *[Algiers Radio]* 8

Egypt

Statements by Mubarak, Ministers in U.S. Reported 8
Mubarak Meets With Congress Members *[MENA]* 8
Mubarak Comments on Hotel Shootings *[MENA]* 10
Al-Baz: U.S., Egypt Stands Identical *[MENA]* 12

Musa: Mubarak Visit 'Successful' *[MENA]* 12
Mubarak Concludes U.S. Visit *[Cairo Radio]* 13
Mubarak Regrets Death of Frenchman in Shooting *[MENA]* 13
Embassy in Paris Issues Statement *[MENA]* 15
Western Media Coverage of Attack Criticized *[MENA]* 15
Sidqi: Hotel Shooting 'Isolated' Incident *[MENA]* 15
More Information on Shooting Suspect Reported *[MENA]* 15
Armed Forces Report on Shooting *[Cairo Radio]* 16
Interior Ministry on Incident *[AFP]* 16
Condition of Injured Reported *[MENA]* 16
Gunman Remanded to Police *[MENA]* 17
Police Brigadier General Shot Dead by Gunmen *[MENA]* 17

Libya

Trade Secretary Meets Iraqi Counterpart *[JANA]* 17

Morocco

Message Sent to Butrus-Ghali on Western Sahara *[Rabat TV]* 17

Sudan

Al-Bashir Calls U.S. Symposium 'Hostile Act' *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Minister on 'Direct Role' of U.S. *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Officials Criticize Symposium *[Omdurman Radio]* 18
Mashar on U.S. Symposium, Ties With SPLA *[London AL-HAYAH 24 Oct]* 19
Al-Bashir on Political Changes, Arab Unity *[London AL-HAYAH 25 Oct]* 20
National Democratic Grouping Elects Leadership *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Oct]* 22

Western Sahara

Polisario Seeks Direct Talks With Morocco *[Algiers Radio]* 22

ARABIAN PENINSULA

GCC Fails To Reach Accord on Customs Tariffs *[Riyadh TV]* 23

Kuwait

Minister Views Iraqi Marshlands Draining *[AFP]* 23
One of 11 Fishermen Detained in Iran Released *[KUNA]* 24

Oman

Minister of State Confers With PLO's Bal'awi *[WAKH]* 24

Qatar

Minister Denies Natural Gas Accord With Israel *[WAKH]* 24

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Minister Meets Visiting U.S. Official *[WAKH]* 24

Yemen

Foreign Minister Returns From Djibouti *[Sanaa Radio]* 24

IRAQ

'Western Scheme' To Replace Saddam Cited *[Voice of Islamic Revolution]* 26
Marshlands Reportedly Still Under Attack *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 26
Car Bomb, Purges Reported in Tikrit District *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 26

ISRAEL

Fatah Dissidents Said Responsible for Gaza Murders *[HA'OLAM HAZE 27 Oct]* 27
Soldier Injured; 'Terrorists' Given Life Sentences *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Palestinian Police To Operate as of 29 Oct *[Jerusalem TV]* 27
Pardons Recommended for Certain Prisoners *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
State Watches Jewish Extremists, Meets Hamas Moderates *[HA'OLAM HAZE 27 Oct]* 27
President Weizman Invites al-Asad To Visit *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Likud Members To Meet With 'Arafat in Tunis *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Spokesman Warns Against 'Arafat Meeting *[Jerusalem Radio]* 28
Palestinian Bid To Join IOC To Be Thwarted *[HATZOFE 28 Oct]* 28
Annual Budget of Shin Bet, Mosad Reported *[HA'ARETZ 28 Oct]* 29
Shahal Denies Qatar To Suspend Gas Accord *[YEDI'OT AHARONOT 28 Oct]* 29
Hungarian Defense Minister Signs Principles Accord *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
PRC's Agriculture Minister Arrives 27 Oct *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29

JORDAN

King Husayn Discusses Jerusalem, Elections *[JORDAN TIMES]* 30
Five Parties Seek Extension of Ballot Collection *[JORDAN TIMES 27 Oct]* 32
Minister Sets 3 Nov Date for Ballot Pickup *[JORDAN TIMES 28-29 Oct]* 32
Al-Husayni Comments on Coordination With Jordan *[Amman TV]* 32
Al-Majali Returns From UNESCO Conference *[Amman Radio]* 33

LEBANON

Hizballah Member on Purpose of Europe Tour *[London AL-HAYAH 25 Oct]* 34
Hizballah Leader Calls for Government's Ouster *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 35
Resistance Clashes With Israelis, SLA Updated 35
Two Hizballah Fighters Wounded by Raid *[VOL]* 35
UN Unit Hit by Israeli Shelling *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Amal Attacks Israeli Emplacements *[Beirut Radio]* 36
Hizballah: 2 Israelis Die in Ambush *[Voice of the Oppressed]* 36

SYRIA

Al-Shar' Speech Covers Peace Talks, Gaza-Jericho *[SANA]* 37
SANA Transmits Alternate Version 37
Al-Shar' Warns Jordan Against 'Deal' With Israel *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
Further on al-Shar' Warning *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 38
Al-Shar': Gaza-Jericho Undermines Regional Peace *[Beirut Radio]* 39
Al-Shar': No Separate or Secret Israel Talks *[Damascus TV]* 39
Al-Ahmar Receives Lebanese Phalangist Delegation *[Damascus Radio]* 40
Forest Fires Destroy 15 Km of Latakia Woodlands *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 25 Oct]* 40

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Meets Bhutto on Pakistan Stopover *[Kabul Radio]* 42
Pakistan to Transport Oil, Expedite Food Convoys *[Kabul Radio]* 42
WHO To Supply Food for Kabul Hospitals *[Kabul Radio]* 42

Iran

'Major Military' Attack on Kurds Expected *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Oct]* 42
Gulf Missile Maneuvers Successfully Concluded *[Tehran Radio]* 43
Hardliners Seek To Weaken Hashemi-Rafsanjani *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 26 Oct]* 43
West Puts 'Political' Slant on Egypt Shootings *[Tehran Radio]* 44
Accord on Technical Exchanges Signed With ROK *[IRNA]* 44
Swiss-Iranian Broadcasting Agreement Signed *[Tehran Radio]* 44

Arab-Israeli Talks

Taba Talks Continue; Security Subcommittee Meets

Sides Agree on Prisoner Release Timetable

NC2710114093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1027 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 27 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, has stated that an agreement has been reached with the Israeli delegation on a timetable for the release all Palestinian detainees and the return of all deportees to their homes by the end of the Committee meetings on 15 December. In a statement to reporters following the conclusion of the Committee's two-hour meeting today, Dr. Sha'th said that an agreement has been reached to form a new Security Subcommittee. This subcommittee, he said, will meet tomorrow to discuss topics relating to the corridors and crossing points, which are considered the core of the security issues discussed by the Committee.

Dr. Sha'th said that 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya and General 'Uzi Dayan, heads of the Palestinian-Israeli Security Subcommittee, will discuss at a separate meeting today the crossing points between Rafah and Egypt and Gaza and Jericho and the various areas from which the Israeli forces will withdraw. Sha'th said that during its meeting today, the Gaza-Jericho Committee focused on the transfer of civil administration to the Palestinians, noting that an agreement has been reached on implementing all measures of the early transfer of authority to the Palestinians. He pointed out that the main ideas of these topics were reviewed and that the ad hoc subcommittees will discuss these topics later today. He praised the progress achieved in the talks by both the Palestinian and Israeli sides, noting that everyone is working to make progress as quickly as possible.

Responding to a question on the possibility of changing the venue of the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings from Taba, Dr. Sha'th said that Taba is a good place but that some members of the Palestinian delegation participating in the meetings come from Tunis, Gaza, and Cairo, which makes it difficult for them to arrive at the same time. He noted that there are only two weekly flights from Cairo to Taba. He said that the possibility of moving the venue to al-'Arish will be discussed during the next round of talks.

Dr. Sha'th voiced his hope that the Israeli authorities will release the second group of Palestinian detainees from Israeli jails during the current round of meetings of the Gaza-Jericho Committee, which will end tomorrow.

Dr. Sha'th pointed out that the second group of detainees have indeed been released according to the timetable worked out by the Detainees Subcommittee during its five-hour meeting yesterday evening. He expressed his happiness at reaching an agreement on the timetable for the release of all detainees, noting that with the end of this problem the ad hoc Palestinian and Israeli subcommittees will begin discussing other pending issues relating to the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement.

Hamas, PFLP Prisoners' Release Discussed

TA2710125893 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Oct 93 p 7

[Report by Mikha'el Rozolio]

[Text] Defense establishment sources in the Israeli delegation to the Taba talks yesterday explained that Israel would agree to favorably consider the release of prisoners from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the Islamic Jihad, if both these organizations endorsed the agreement between the PLO and Israel.

At this stage however, until statements to this effect are issued by Hamas or Islamic Jihad officials, no prisoners from either organization will be released.

With the opening of the third round of talks in Taba on the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho First agreement, the defense establishment sources explained that more prisoners who have expressed support for the peace process from the Jibril [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine—General Command] and Habash [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine] organizations will be released soon.

Palestinians Submit Prisoner Criteria List

TA2710123993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 27 Oct 93 pp 1, 2

[Report from Taba by On Levi]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian delegation yesterday submitted a list of six new categories of prisoners and detainees whom the Palestinians want freed in the second stage of the release process. The Palestinians' demand to release Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad activists was again rejected yesterday by the Israeli delegation, which expressed its readiness to continue discussing criteria for the prisoners' release.

The Palestinian delegation yesterday demanded the release of all prisoners and detainees under to the six following categories:

- all administrative detainees
- all prisoners who have served more than two thirds of their terms
- all prisoners who were sentenced to jail terms of less than 10 years
- all prisoners who were jailed for political activity
- all prisoners who were arrested for offenses which did not result in physical injury

- all prisoners included in the initial four categories already agreed upon for release (women, sick prisoners, children under 18, and prisoners over 50) whom have not yet been set free.

[passage omitted]

Paper on Transfer of Authority Submitted

TA2710124593 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 27 Oct 93 p 7

[Report by No'omi Levitzky]

[Text] Yesterday afternoon, the Palestinian delegation handed the Israeli team a position paper specifying in detail the steps required for the orderly transfer of authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho from the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Civil Administration to the administrative council that will be established by the Palestinians.

The document sets out a detailed timetable for the gradual transfer of authority, and the Palestinians also stipulate various confidence-building measures which they believe necessary, such as the release of prisoners and the return of deportees.

An important chapter in the document deals with security arrangements on the ground, according to the Palestinian concept. In the first stage, the Palestinians are talking about establishing a police force numbering between 6,000 and 8,000 policemen. The Palestinians assert that at a later stage they will need approximately 12,000 policemen. This number, however, will also include members of the "civil guard."

The term "civil guard" is a code word used by the Palestinians. What they are really referring to is a an internal security police force, sort of a Palestinian Shin Bet. The Egyptians have already agreed to equip such a unit with light weapons, jeeps, and trucks.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, the head of the Palestinian delegation, yesterday handed the document to Major General Amnon Shahaq, his Israeli counterpart. Shahaq promised to deliver the Israeli reply today.

Palestinians Score Israeli 'Procrastination'

NC2710163293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1444 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 27 Oct (MENA)—The Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks has informed the United States and Russia, the two cosponsors of the peace conference, of the Israeli side's procrastination and lack of seriousness during the Gaza-Jericho Committee's talks currently under way in Taba.

In a statement to a MENA correspondent, Salih Ra'fat, a member of the PLO Central Council, said that the Palestinian side has noticed the Israeli side's procrastination when the issues of Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the transfer of authority to the Palestinian forces are raised. He pointed out that only eight of the 30 members of the Israeli delegation arrived for the talks yesterday afternoon. Ra'fat noted that the remaining members were summoned in the evening at the insistence of the Palestinian side.

The Palestinian official said that the Palestinian side called on the peace conference cosponsors to urge the Israeli side to speed up the implementation of the timetable for the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho on 14 December [date as received] at the latest as part of the implementation of the Palestinian-Israeli declaration of principles agreement.

He said that the United States has been informed of the situation through the U.S. Embassy adviser, who is currently in Taba. Dr. Hanan 'Ashrawi, official spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, who is now in Washington, has also been informed. Russia was also briefed on the situation through diplomatic channels, Ra'fat added.

Security Subcommittee Resumes Meetings

NC2710164193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The Security Subcommittee of the Gaza-Jericho Committee resumed its meetings at the Taba Hotel this afternoon to continue its discussions on the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the deployment of Palestinian police forces.

The subcommittee had held a meeting earlier in the day. The Palestinian delegation asked for that meeting to end half an hour after it began because the delegation noticed that the Israeli side was not serious about discussing the Israeli forces' withdrawal.

Dr. Nabil Sha'th, political adviser to Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and head of the Palestinian side on the Gaza-Jericho Committee, expressed his hope that the Israeli authorities will release the second group of Palestinian detainees in Israeli jails during the current round of meetings, which are due to end tomorrow.

In statements to journalists at the end of the Gaza-Jericho Committee's talks in Taba at noon today, Sha'th said the release of the second group of the Palestinian detainees was discussed today.

For his part, Salih Ra'fat, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee, said that during the meetings, the Palestinian delegation asked that assistance be sought from the UN to deploy multinational forces in Gaza and Jericho to assist the Palestinian security forces and help supervise the crossings and bridges.

PLO's Ra'fat Views Subcommittee Talks

NC2710181893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1426 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 27 Oct (MENA)—The Palestinian delegation participating in the Gaza-Jericho Committee has asked the Israeli side for a speedy withdrawal from Gaza

and Jericho in preparation for a full transfer of powers to a national Palestinian authority that will be established by the Palestine National Council. This committee comprises PLO members from outside the occupied areas and some Palestinian leaders from the occupied territories, Salih Ra'fat, member of PLO Central Council and the Palestinian delegation, said.

In a statement to MENA, he added that this Palestinian national authority will not be concerned with administering Gaza and Jericho only, but will administer all the territories occupied since 1967 as part of the implementation of the declaration of principles agreement until direct elections to form a Palestinian government are held in the liberated territories in July.

He said the Palestinian delegation stressed in its talks with the Israeli side that priority be given to the Israeli forces' withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho and the Palestinian forces' takeover of the liberated territories.

He added that the Security Subcommittee's meeting was adjourned at the request of the Palestinian delegation a short time after it began because of the Israeli side's lack of seriousness about discussing the details of withdrawal.

Ra'fat pointed out that the Security Subcommittee will meet later today to discuss a complete withdrawal that will coincide with the Palestinian forces' takeover of the administration in Gaza and Jericho and the establishment and deployment of the Palestinian forces.

He noted that there are two Security Subcommittees: One is chaired by Palestinian Major General Nasri Yusuf and Israeli General David (Akhon) and is concerned with discussing the Israeli police forces' withdrawal and deployment. The second subcommittee is chaired by Palestinian Major General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya and Israeli General 'Uzi Dayan and discussing land, sea, and air corridors and security arrangements concerning travel, settlements, and the presence of international forces.

He said that Israel is demanding the presence of security forces to protect settlements in Gaza against any foreign threat. He remarked that the Palestinian side rejected the Israeli proposal, affirming that there is no justification for the presence of these forces because Israel currently faces no foreign threat, from either Egypt or Jordan.

He said: During the talks, we demanded a complete withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, where a Palestinian authority will assume responsibility for land, sea, and air corridors, on the condition that the Israeli forces' presence be confined to the main complex of temporary settlements in Gaza and that these forces be very limited in size.

He asked the Israeli side to move these settlements from northern and central Gaza, noting that the continued presence of these settlements is a threat and a source of continuous friction between the Palestinians and residents of these settlements. He said that in order to avoid this friction, the settlements must be moved and all property must be returned to the Palestinian state.

Palestinian Delegate Urges 'Good Faith'

JN2710175693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Arabic 1530 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Interview with Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, member of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, by radio correspondent As'ad 'Attar; from the "With the Evening Events" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] ['Attar] The Israeli people have fears and questions about the positive signs which are required to build confidence?

[Al-'Akir] It is true that both sides have these fears. However, I do not have the least doubt that the more positive and real signs are shown to our Palestinian people on the ground by the Israeli authorities, the less will be the acts of violence and the frustration prevailing among the Palestinians. Regrettably, the release of hundreds of detainees—which, believe me, was about to take place during the ninth round in May—is a very small step that has come too late. Instead of contributing to the creation of a positive atmosphere, this step has caused a reaction to the contrary. I do not know if a serious Israeli position in this regard would receive a profound positive reaction from the Palestinian people. [passage omitted]

['Attar] How can the peace process, particularly the negotiations in Taba, be promoted?

[Al-'Akir] First, there should be serious negotiations in good faith by the two parties. On the other hand, there should be signs on the ground outside the framework of negotiations. For example, we are now negotiating in Taba on the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho. According to the text of the agreement, it is the Jericho area. However, the Israeli side is talking about the city of Jericho. I regard this as ill intention, because if the negotiators who reached this formula in Oslo meant the city of Jericho, they would have been said so. What is required is good faith.

['Attar] Thank you, Dr. Mamduh al-'Akir, member of the Palestinian delegation.

Subcommittee's Agenda for 28 Oct Accepted

TA2710184593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1800 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Excerpts] In Taba, what was supposed to be the first day of concrete negotiations ended with more talks on the proposed agenda. However, after initially failing to find common ground, the Israeli-Palestinian subcommittee on security issues agreed that tomorrow, the first item to be negotiated will be the future Palestinian police force, its size, and its powers. The Palestinians initially insisted that Israeli withdrawal be the first security issue on the agenda.

The head of the Palestinian delegation, Nabil Sha'th, complained that the talks were falling behind schedule and may not meet the December 13 deadline, which is just over six weeks away.

For his part, the spokesman of the Israeli delegation, 'Ami Gluska, said the Palestinians were spending too much time on the question of prisoner releases. But, in an interview with our correspondent Arye Haskel, Gluska said the talks are making progress in a positive atmosphere. [passage omitted]

On the issue of prisoner releases, Nabil Sha'th told reporters that he believes more prisoners would be released by the end of the week. A source in the Israeli delegation told Qol Yisra'el that the subcommittee on confidence-building measures, which is meeting at this hour, is not merely a subcommittee for prisoner releases, but will deal with other issues as well.

Security Subcommittee Concludes Meetings

NC2710195693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1750 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Taba, 27 Oct (MENA)—The Gaza-Jericho Security Subcommittee concluded its meetings this evening in Taba.

Dr. Ahmad Khalidi, the spokesman for the Palestinian delegation, said that during the meeting, which lasted about two hours, they exchanged views on the withdrawal of the Israeli forces from Gaza and Jericho and the deployment of Palestinian forces in the liberated areas.

Khalidi added in statements to journalists that the Palestinian side presented its ideas on the issue of Israeli withdrawal. He affirmed the importance of the withdrawal by the Israeli forces as quickly as possible to pave the way for the deployment of Palestinian forces in their place.

Khalidi said the Israeli delegation will study these ideas to prepare for tomorrow's discussions.

In another development, the Detainees Subcommittee meeting was postponed. The subcommittee was scheduled to meet this evening. The Israeli side had requested this meeting to discuss the agenda for releasing the remaining Palestinian detainees.

Jabr Fiddah, a member of the Palestinian delegation in the Gaza-Jericho Committee, affirmed in statements to MENA that the Palestinian side reaffirmed its insistence that all the Palestinian detainees held in Israeli prisons be released without discriminating among them, whether they are from Fatah, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], or other Palestinian organizations.

Jabr Fiddah said that the Palestinian side is seeking the release of all Palestinian revolutionaries and Arab detainees in Israeli prisons. There are about 13,000 such detainees.

The members of the Israeli delegation left Taba this evening for Israel. The Gaza-Jericho Committee and the subcommittees are expected to resume their meetings in Taba tomorrow morning.

Fatah Hawks To Serve in Gaza Police Force

TA2810054893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The Taba talks will resume this morning in the framework of two subcommittees: a civilian affairs subcommittee and a security affairs subcommittee that will deal with the issue of the Palestinian police. Muhammad Dahlan, a member of the Palestinian delegation, says that Fatah Hawks—both those located in the Gaza Strip and those who fled the Strip—will be included in the Gaza police force. Dahlan, former head of the Fatah youth movement al-Shabibah, was deported from Israel seven years ago. He told our correspondent Karmela Menashe that Fatah members will not carry out any more terrorist acts and that they are completely under Yasir 'Arafat's command.

The third round of Taba talks ends today. The delegations will reconvene next Monday, when another security affairs subcommittee will start its work. This subcommittee will deal with the practical steps relating to the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdrawal from Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Islamic Affairs

Envoy Highlights Kashmir Events At ICO Meeting

BK2610102593 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] The member countries of the Islamic Conference Organization [IC]) have expressed profound sorrow, anguish, and concern over the killing of 68 civilians for demonstrating against the siege of Hazratbal Shrine in Srinagar. In a joint statement after its emergency session [in New York] convened by Pakistan, the organization urged the Indian Government to withdraw its troops besieging the shrine and take immediate steps to overcome the effects of the desecration of the shrine. The resolution adopted at the session says the ICO member countries consider the siege of the shrine as gross violation of religious freedom. The ICO member countries demanded that the persons besieged in the shrine be unconditionally allowed to go from there.

Earlier, the Pakistani envoy, who presided over the session, apprised the member countries of the reign of terror unleashed by India in occupied Kashmir.

Iranian ambassador Kamal Kharrazi has said that the Indian action against Kashmiri Muslims cannot be ignored. He demanded the immediate lifting of the siege of the shrine. Turkish envoy Inal Batu and other members of the organization also expressed similar sentiments.

Palestinian Affairs

Israeli Opposition Accused of al-Saftawi Murder

NC2710132793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Salih Ra'fat, Palestine National Council member and member of the Palestinian delegation to the Taba talks, has accused the Israeli opposition of assassinating Palestinian struggler As'ad al-Saftawi in Gaza last week. He said that the Palestinian delegation to the Gaza-Jericho Committee meetings has called on the Israeli authorities to disclose the details of the incident. He stressed that the Palestinian opponents to peace do not resort to such terrorist acts to express their rejection.

Jibril Recovering in Damascus After Heart Attack

JN2710110293 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 27 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] Damascus—Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command [PFLP-GC] quarters have said that PFLP-GC Secretary General Ahmad Jibril was admitted into the intensive care unit of a Syrian hospital after a severe heart attack on Sunday [24 October].

In a telephone conversation with PFLP-GC leaders in Damascus initiated by AL-BILAD, PFLP-GC leaders said that Jibril, who has suffered three heart attacks in the past two years, is recovering gradually.

These leaders added that Jibril's illness was the reason for his not attending meetings of the 10 factions [opposed to the Arab-Israeli peace talks], which have been resumed to discuss the means to thwart the Gaza-Jericho accord.

PFLP Official Reportedly Resigns Over Accord

JN2710121793 Amman AL-BILAD in Arabic 27 Oct 93 p 1

[Text] AL-BILAD has confirmed reports that Taysir Qub'ah, deputy speaker of the Palestine National Council and a key figure within the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], has resigned from the PFLP Political Bureau and the PFLP Central Committee. Sources close to the PFLP said that Qub'ah attributed his resignation to political reasons. However, he did not identify these reasons in the letter of resignation he submitted to the PFLP Political Bureau and PFLP Secretary General Dr. George Habash.

These sources added that a sharp dispute had broken out between Qub'ah, who is leading a group within the PFLP that supports the Gaza-Jericho accord, and Abu-'Ali Mustafa [Mustafa al-Zibri], who reflects the views of the majority within the PFLP, which is opposed to this accord. The views of the majority enjoy the blessings of Dr. George Habash.

Qub'ah, who has always been known for his hatred of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine [DFLP], and DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatmah, has also strongly opposed the moves made over the past two months to bring about a merger between the PFLP and the DFLP. Instead, he proposed coordination with the Yasir 'Ab-Rabbuh wing of the DFLP.

The opponents of Qub'ah within both the PFLP and DFLP have affirmed to AL-BILAD that Yasir 'Arafat, who has been sponsoring Qub'ah and Bassam Abu-Sharif for a long time, is behind the recent splintering within the PFLP sparked by Qub'ah at this critical juncture, when the proponents and opponents of the Gaza-Jericho accord are engaged in a tug-of-war.

Quray' Discusses Inter-Palestinian Differences

PM2710152093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Oct 93 p 5

[Interview with Ahmad Quray' alias Abu-al-'Ala', director of the PLO Economic Department, by Bari'ah 'Alam-al-Din in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Alam-al-Din] What is the story of inter-Palestinian differences, and what is their effect on the march of peace?

[Quray'] No one expected there would be unanimity over the agreement. In fact some people said that the Palestinian people would be wrong to accept it. Because the agreement was reached under local, Arab, and international factors which could not have produced more than what was achieved.

Besides, there is the minority and majority game. What happened was that following the announcement of the agreement a number of Palestinian forces opposed it. Some of them said it did not achieve their aspirations. Others were surprised by the speed at which the event emerged. The 10 organizations [opposed to the peace process] issued their position rejecting the agreement. This has become a normal thing in Palestinian action. We hope that everyone will understand the nature of the stage and what is possible and what is not. We also hope that everyone will deal with the situation on that basis, because the Palestinian people's unity is more important and bigger than any other considerations.

['Alam-al-Din] What is the scale of the threat posed by the position rejecting the peace process?

[Quray'] The matter depends on our ability to build a strong and effective institutions. The agreement has become part of history and a reality on the ground. It has received the support of the Palestinian majority—which is required. It has also received the Arab and international support. The process of implementing the agreement is the main challenge, because it needs a firm footing and a development process that makes Palestinians feel the real change. It also needs a conscious and responsible security apparatus capable of protecting development operations and similar institutions in all areas of Palestinian life—institutions that do their work democratically. [passage omitted]

['Alam-al-Din] Are there any serious contacts with the front rejecting the agreement, aimed at explaining it or trying to bring views closer?

[Quray'] There are contacts, and we welcome any dialogue with any Palestinian faction or national figure opposed to the agreement. We need a dialogue with oppositionists before supporters.

['Alam-al-Din] Are there any signs of response to this orientation?

[Quray'] Yes. There is, for example, Hamas' (Islamic Resistance Movement) call to hold a meeting in Yemen. This call has been deferred but still stands, and we hope the meeting will be held. And there will be other contacts soon.

['Alam-al-Din] There have been reports of Abu-Mazin's [PLO Executive Committee member Mahmud 'Abbas] seclusion and the occurrence of disagreements within the PLO leadership.

[Quray'] That is untrue, everyone is in one trench.

['Alam-al-Din] What about the conflict inside Fatah and the recent assassinations?

[Quray'] As'ad al-Saftawi's assassination is a crime but not a phenomenon. It is a serious incident to which attention should be paid. Its causes should be determined carefully and responsibly in order to fight them, so that this incident will not become a phenomenon. I believe that serious measures have been taken to investigate the causes of the incident.

['Alam-al-Din] There are reports to the effect that the United States and Israel have begun to doubt the PLO's ability to assume power in Gaza following recent killing incidents.

[Quray'] That is an allegation, because security is not repression. It is people's belief in the orientation and the authorities. We have begun to form security forces, and I am confident that we will be fully able to provide security for our people and their institutions. I hope that we will also be able to build a national institution that persuades our people to protect it. [passage omitted]

['Alam-al-Din] Can it be said that there is a conspiracy to obstruct the aid to Palestine?

[Quray'] I do not believe there is any form of conspiracy. On the contrary, I believe there is a real Arab and international desire and determination to make the agreement a success. We cannot accept any aid unless it is in line with our policy, programs, and priorities. And we will not allow any aid to be delivered unless it is going to be implemented on the ground by Palestinian workers and technicians. We would not accept other forms of control. [passage omitted]

['Alam-al-Din] How would you describe Saudi-Palestinian relations?

[Quray'] We are in every way appreciative toward the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and value highly its aid to and principled position toward Palestinian rights. Without doubt relations went through a delicate phase which saddened us, but this page has begun to be turned, and we are currently approaching the opening of a new page, in order to restore our relations, which were the best. We will make every effort to restore them. [passage omitted]

['Alam-al-Din] How do you see peace prospects in the region?

[Quray'] I cannot see any peace in the region without a peace with Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, and the Palestinians. If we are talking about peace with one party, it is possible for peace to be achieved with the Palestinians and Jordan. But a comprehensive settlement must include all these parties combined. Without that the problem would continue. Thus every efforts should be exerted to make the Syrian and Lebanese tracks a success.

Wider Inter-Palestinian Dialogue Planned

PM2710162093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 93 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Extended Dialogues To Be Held To Spare Blood, Prevent Infighting"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Extended dialogues will begin early next month, November, between the PLO and the Palestinian factions opposed to the Gaza-Jericho agreement, amid positive indications of the possibility of achieving relative success in the overall urgent Arab efforts to mediate between the PLO and these factions, especially after the assassination of As'ad al-Saftawi, the most prominent Palestinian leader in the Gaza Strip who supported the the agreement.

Palestinian sources have told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that bilateral contacts are a preparatory step for an extended meeting for which the PLO is going to call in order to secure a formula for Palestinian reconciliation, which has been described as one of the factors for protecting this agreement against collapse. The sources also pointed out that these contacts will include those who are opposed to the agreement, whether in the Gaza Strip or the West Bank, in addition to the elements present in other Arab states. The sources pointed out that the contacts being made by the PLO to check the oppositionists' escalating opposition have coincided with the implementation of special measures to protect pro-PLO elements against any new assassination operations.

The sources also revealed that contacts made with Palestinians inside [the occupied territories] have urged the need to display self-restraint and to unite Palestinian ranks.

New Fatah Commander Takes Over 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp

NC2810083993 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Mu'in Shabaytah, Fatah Command member in Lebanon, has stated that Munir Maqdah—an opponent of the Palestinian self-rule agreement who was relieved by the Fatah Central Command in Tunis of his post on 14 October—has handed the Fatah centers and command units in the 'Ayn al-Hulwah Camp to Major Khalid al-Sha'ib. Al-Sha'ib was appointed recently by the Central Command to a tripartite Security Committee formed to replace Munir Maqdah.

First Palestinian Bank Planned in Ramallah

NC2710200493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1910 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Several Palestinian businessmen have agreed to establish the first Palestinian bank in Ramallah in the occupied West Bank with a capital of $15 million.

A Palestinian economic source in Cairo said the bank will be a stock company in which Palestinian businessmen and investors living inside the occupied territories are shareholders.

The source said the bank will soon open branches in cities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, adding that the bank's establishment falls within the framework of economic measures to create financial centers in the occupied Arab territories to fund development and trade projects during the transitional period for the implementation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement.

Britain Grants PLO Mission High Commission Status

LD2710200993 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Excerpt] As of 26 October, the British Government has agreed to grant high commission status to the PLO's mission in Britain and has given its permission to raise the Palestinian flag on the building. [passage omitted]

OPEC Affairs

Iraqi Attendance at OAPEC Meeting Reported

JN2510201893 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] Iraq took part in the 76th session of the Executive Bureau of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries [OAPEC] held in Cairo on 19 October. The session lasted two days.

In a statement to the correspondent of the IRAQI NEWS AGENCY, the Iraqi representative to the OAPEC Executive Bureau said that the meetings addressed the draft OAPEC budget for 1994, the procedures of OAPEC's judicial organ, as well as the plans and activities of the Baghdad-based Arab Oil Training Institute, which is affiliated with OAPEC.

It has been decided to hold a session for the OAPEC Ministerial Council in Damascus on 8 December. This session will address OAPEC's plans for 1994 and endorse its draft budget as well as the decisions of the organization's judicial organ.

Algeria

Dialogue Committee Talks With Socialist Forces

LD2710132793 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Excerpt] The National Dialogue Committee announced that it held an initial meeting yesterday with a delegation from the Socialist Forces Front, headed by Deputy Secretary General M'barek.

The Committee clarified that after a discussion, characterized by frankness and during which proposals were exchanged on how to conduct future work, the two sides agreed to continue contacts between them in the coming days. [passage omitted]

Contacts With FIS Leader Denied

LD2710231493 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 2200 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The National Dialogue Committee denied reports published by some media organs over alleged contacts [with the FIS leader]. The statement issued by the committee said that it denies these unfounded and false reports, and recalls that, since the beginning of its work, it has based its dealings with the mass media on transparency; it made sure that it provided them with news regarding its endeavors as it happens. Therefore, the committee believes that during this critical period everybody should first ascertain the facts, and second be responsible.

In its issue published today, EL-MASSA reported that a member of the National Dialogue Committee was said to have met with Abdelkader Hachani, the former leader of the executive committee of the outlawed Islamic Salvation Front [FIS] at the Serkadji prison.

Court Hands Down 18 Death Sentences, Jail Terms

LD2710143093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Excerpts] A military court in Ouargla today handed down its final sentences on the group charged in the Kasr El Hirane operation in Laghouat Province, in which five gendarmes were killed on 1 January. More details from our correspondent:

The military court in Ouargla continued until the early hours of this morning trying those accused of murdering five gendarmes in Kasr El Hirane in Laghouat Province on 1 January 1993.

After confirming the identity of the accused and reading out the indictment, the president of the court began questioning the 14 defendants in custody. There are 18 defendants who are still at large. The defendants denied all the charges against them, despite having confessed to the gendarmerie and the investigating judge. They are charged with breaking into military barracks as an armed gang, carrying out premeditated murder, and not reporting a criminal act. [passage omitted]

After the defense's closing statement, the hearing was adjourned for deliberations. The following sentences were later announced: Death sentences for 18 defendants in absentia; three 20-year jail sentences, one 15-year jail sentence, one 10-year prison sentence, six five-year jails sentences; two five-year sentences for defendants who were temporarily released. Three defendants in custody were acquitted.

11 More Death Sentences Issued

LD2810091293 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] After more than three days of special sessions to try the group of Ksar El Boukhari Medea, which consists of 90 members, 10 of whom are on the run, the Algiers special court yesterday issued 11 death sentences on those accused of carrying out assassination acts against members of the national security and civilians, as well as forming an armed group that has called for the elimination of the present regime.

The special court also issued four life sentences. The remaining sentences range between 6 months and 20 years imprisonment. Another 26 benefited from release on bail during the preliminary investigation last Sunday at the Medea special court headquarters.

Egypt

Statements by Mubarak, Ministers in U.S. Reported

Mubarak Meets With Congress Members

NC2710192893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, 27 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has reiterated that the wheel of peace in the Middle East has begun to move with force and no state or party can obstruct it, because peace is stronger than any such attempt. President Mubarak said peace must achieve its objective, because all the peoples of the area aspire to it.

His assertions were made during a closed session of one hour with members of the U.S. Congress Foreign Relations Committee on Capitol Hill today.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'um, head of the Presidential Press Bureau, said that U.S. Representative Lee Hamilton, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, welcomed the president at the start of the talks, which were later attended by several other prominent members of committees. He stated that Hamilton said he appreciated the president's eagerness to visit Congress and meet its members every time he visits the United States. Hamilton noted that the late President Anwar al-Sadat

initiated this tradition. Hamilton then addressed President Mubarak, saying: You are a great friend of the United States. We are always happy to receive you here and talk to you. We look forward to hearing your remarks and valuable ideas.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im said that following Hamilton's speech, President Mubarak said how pleased he was to meet Congress members. Mubarak said he would be happy to meet them in Egypt too. He pointed out that many Congressional members visited Egypt in 1990. President Mubarak said he hoped more members would visit Egypt. He voiced his pleasure at the strong relations between Egypt and the United States.

'Abd-al-Mun'im added that Representative Tom Lantos responded to President Mubarak, saying: Mr. President, you must be happy at the lack of representatives going to your country, because we go to volatile spots and your country is now stable.

Muhammad 'Abd-al-Mun'im stated that the president said he was ready to answer questions frankly and clearly. The discussion began with a question about the Middle East peace process and how much Syria is ready to join it. Answering, President Mubarak said the peace process has been delayed for 15 years, since the signing of the Camp David Accord. But he affirmed that the wheel of peace has begun to move with force, particularly after the achievement of the agreement on the declaration of principles between the PLO and Israel.

Continuing, President Mubarak said: Peace is a major force and its current is stronger than any attempt to obstruct it by any state or side in the area. He also stressed that the wheel of peace is moving fast, but might slow down sometime. The president stressed that peace will achieve the desired objective, which is supported by all the peoples of the area, including Syria, which has shown flexibility over past months.

President Mubarak referred to his recent meeting with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and clarified that long discussions went into the details of the peace process.

President Mubarak said: I affirm to you that President al-Asad is very flexible and truly wants peace. The problem is the lack of trust between the Israeli and Syrian sides.

President Mubarak added that he and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin discussed all the details of the peace process and sensed this absence of trust. But both sides want peace and to overcome any fears or worries that might place obstacles before the peace process, which I personally believe—with respect to Syria and Israel—will progress during the next two months or into the beginning of the new year.

President Mubarak noted that late President Anwar al-Sadat was the first to open the great door and establish peace in the region. He came under violent attack for doing so from numerous sides, which now realize his decision was wise.

The president described recent assassination operations in the occupied territories as expected, because there are many parties to the problem. He said non-Arab sides are trying to hamper the march in any possible way, but they will not succeed, because the current of peace is much stronger than all of them. He added: I am very optimistic about this.

The discussion moved on to terrorism. The question was asked: Why doesn't Egypt start dialogue with the terrorists so that their policies and trends can be understood? President Mubarak said: We started dialogue with these people years ago and it continued for years. But some of them, and they are a minority in Egypt, reject democracy, the Constitution, the Government, and the modern system of rule. They have their own ideas about things that are wrong.

President Mubarak added: We started dealing with them firmly when they began to use arms and bullets as an alternative to dialogue. Those who did so constitute a very small minority, and this was proven during the local election in the past year, when only a negligible minority from among them won.

They don't enjoy a majority, but their voice is very loud and they use the media to misguide the public inside and outside Egypt. When they call for freedom of the press—we have that—they do so only so that they can attack responsible government officials. We are confident that if they find themselves in a position of responsibility, they will stifle every voice and cancel every form of freedom.

The president affirmed that terrorism in Egypt is scant and said that during the past few years, terrorist operations have left 130 terrorists, 60 policemen, four foreigners, and various civilians dead.

Answering questions from the U.S. Congressmen, President Mubarak commented on U.S. aid to Egypt and U.S.-Egyptian ties. He said U.S. aid remains very necessary and will continue as such until the economic reform process is completed. He said relations with Washington are sound.

Albert Engel interposed to comment that Mubarak is a great man and a great leader and that the United States appreciates his efforts, particularly in connection with the Middle East peace process.

President Mubarak modestly responded: "I am not as great as you say." Everyone applauded in appreciation of the president's modesty.

Answering Congressmen's inquiries about the Arab boycott of Israel, President Mubarak asserted that since other parties have joined the peace process and the operation is invigorated, the time will come when the boycott will end. He said this will happen at the appropriate stage, adding that the boycott decision was originally adopted during an Arab summit conference.

President Mubarak spoke to House members about the financing of terrorist and extremist groups in the Middle East and the countries that support terrorism with the aim of destabilizing the entire region. He said this phenomenon will disappear from the region, particularly the occupied territories, after living standards rise and the occupied territories acquire a new infrastructure.

The president added that some people are trying to stall the peace process, but their efforts will fail.

The president praised the U.S. role in the ongoing peace efforts, especially its efforts to collect the necessary funds to build an infrastructure in the areas from which Israel will withdraw. He said these areas' residents will perceive that peace can produce a higher living standard.

The president then commented on the current Somali crisis and the role played by the African Reconciliation Committee, the general situation in the Horn of Africa, Mozambique, Angola, Zaire, and South Africa.

He also discussed the Libyan crisis, explaining the circumstances and conditions prevailing there.

Mubarak Comments on Hotel Shootings

NC2710221193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Washington, 27 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has said that Egypt paved the way to peace in the Middle East with late President Anwar al-Sadat's initiative in 1977, with his visit to Jerusalem, and with the peace treaty he signed with Israel at Camp David.

The president said the incident in the Semiramis Hotel yesterday was a simple one, adding: We regret that two Americans were its victims.

The remarks came in an interview President Husni Mubarak gave to CNN, which was broadcast this evening.

CNN's interviewer asked President Mubarak about the incident at the Semiramis Hotel, which left two Americans and a Frenchman dead and many others injured, and about the information available on the incident and its perpetrator. The president answered: As you start the interview with this question, I say it is a minor incident that could happen anywhere. The man is crazy. He was discharged from the Armed Forces due to mental illness. There is every possibility you might come across this kind of person committing such abnormal incidents.

President Mubarak said he greatly regretted the deaths of the two U.S. citizens and the Frenchman. He said he finds this very sad indeed.

Asked whether there was any connection between the perpetrator and the fundamentalist movement and whether he was a fundamentalist, President Mubarak answered: No. Not at all. He is not a fundamentalist and does not belong to them.

Asked whether he held talks with President Clinton on the peace process in the Middle East and the role Egypt could play on the Israeli-Syrian track, the president answered: Egypt has started to play this role.

He added that Egypt opened the door to peace when President Anwar al-Sadat signed the peace treaty with Israel. Egypt remains a pivotal country in the region, which affects the whole region.

President Mubarak said Egypt has good relations with every country in the region. He said the first meeting between PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin after their meeting in Washington took place in Cairo, where the two sides agreed to set out a plan or framework to implement the declaration of principles. Now, there remain the Syrian, Lebanese, and Jordanian tracks.

The president said he believed President Hafiz al-Asad truly wants peace. He is very flexible, but the issue now is that there is a gap in trust between the two sides. Prime Minister Rabin has a few problems he would like to solve within two months to solve his problems with Syria.

President Mubarak affirmed that President al-Asad wants to settle the problem.

Asked whether he intended to meet Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Mubarak said: I will leave Washington tonight for Paris and meet President al-Asad on Saturday in Damascus.

Asked about the messages he intends to convey to the Syrian president after his meetings in Washington, Mubarak said Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' was in Washington before his visit when he met President Clinton. I discussed this problem with Clinton, Mubarak said, and he affirmed to me that Washington will support the negotiations between the Syrians and Israelis. So, the president added, I will convey this message to the Syrians and discuss with President al-Asad what action can be taken.

Asked whether the president had any idea how long it would take to conclude a Syrian-Israeli agreement in light of reports that Israel is not politically or internally ready to take any new initiative on land for the Syrians, President Mubarak said: I hope they would start with that tomorrow. But this will take some time; perhaps they will achieve something within three or four months at most.

When the interviewer repeated the words at most, the president answered: Yes, at most. They could achieve something that might not change the negotiations completely, but they could reach some sort of declaration of principles, perhaps within a month. I hope they can conclude some sort of agreement before the end of the month. I am working diligently with Rabin and President al-Asad.

Answering a question on what President Mubarak or Egypt could do at this stage of the negotiations that

would be the most help to Mr. 'Arafat, he said: We encourage both sides to move forward, exert efforts to implement the agreement that they signed, and start working on the Declaration of Principles.

The president added, addressing the interviewer: You know that President 'Arafat and the Palestinian people could travel to Jericho some time soon for the first time. They lack administrative experience, though. We will be offering them help. They have no police or other forces. We have trained some of their forces and the rest are being trained in Jordan.

We are helping them and placing them on the correct track. At the same time, we are holding talks with Israel.

Responding to a question on whether he is concerned about any real threats to Yasir 'Arafat's life from radical elements, President Mubarak said that assassination attempts are expected, and we could expect anything to happen. He added: Saving this boat took 44 years.

President Mubarak said that there are some elements that do not want peace. They have become used to living without peace. When the peace march started, such success appeared strange to them. Therefore, we can expect assassination attempts by any of these individuals. He affirmed that this will not stop the wheel of peace which has actually started rolling. Perhaps it has so far rolled slowly, but it will be continuing to roll.

Answering a question on whether the president believes that 'Arafat himself is in danger, President Mubarak said: Perhaps he is, and perhaps not. Some very brave decisions have been made, and we can expect dangers to crop up after these decisions.

The president was asked his opinion on what some people are talking about in the United States regarding the need to decrease the budget at the expense of foreign aid, and what others claim, which is that Egypt is the country getting the largest amount of U.S. aid. President Mubarak answered: They could say that. But we are now going through a very sensitive stage and any decrease could be a bad sign to the people, especially at the beginning of my third term as president.

Second, we are now going through the most sensitive stage in our march of economic reform. We are currently implementing many of the economic reform programs, despite the fact that the aid has not increased; in fact, it has decreased since 1980 as a result of inflation. The amount of money you gave us in 1980 or 1981 is the same amount you are giving us now. But in 1980, this amount of money could buy all kinds of things that we cannot buy now. Therefore, the sum has decreased. The president continued: We still face many problems in the region. Even with peace with Israel, we still have many problems before us. We must go on until all problems are solved, and we are over this sensitive stage in our economic reform march.

President Mubarak said we do not expect this aid to go on forever. This is something I am convinced of, but at least this aid could go on for two years until we overcome these difficult economic reform measures and start the second stage. After that, aid could be decreased to a certain level.

The interviewer asked the president a question about some other important issues dealing with the region with which Egypt has a strong relationship. President Mubarak answered: I am trying very hard. The issue is that we are afraid of the effects on the public, the Libyan people, especially since there are more than 1 million Egyptian workers in Libya. I also worry about the Libyan people themselves. They are, after all, our neighbors. We have persevered in our talks with Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. He has recently shown much greater flexibility than at any previous time. However, there are other problems that make it difficult for him to take steps forward.

On whether there are internal Libyan problems, the president said: Perhaps from various sides. But the man is more flexible than at any time in the past. I have sat with him and talked to him. I have experience with him that I have acquired since 1969. I believe that he has now changed a great deal.

President Mubarak added: We are trying very hard to find a solution to this issue. We hope to reach a decision before the sanctions are stepped up.

The interviewer says: Which will be next month.

President Mubarak: Yes, next month.

The president was asked whether he believes there are any reasons to make him feel there is some result that he must accomplish. [sentence as received]

President Mubarak said: Yes. Perhaps. I cannot answer this question fully, but perhaps.

On whether he feels some frustration because of this, President Mubarak answered: I feel worried because of the number of Egyptians there. The Libyans are our neighbors. This is the issue.

Answering a question on whether the president believes that the Libyans should hand in the two suspects, President Mubarak said: I cannot tell the Libyans to hand in these two people. But they have to find a way out of this problem. These two people could hand themselves in of their own accord, thus averting further clashes with the international community.

Asked about the consequences of the withdrawal of the U.S. Forces from Somalia by next spring, President Mubarak said: There is a U.S. decision to withdraw the U.S. Forces by 31 March. However, I can say something. Don't believe you can live in isolation. You are the biggest state on the face of the earth. You are the only superpower. You must preserve your bright image. But, how can you withdraw from all problems throughout the world when you have interests all over the world?

President Mubarak then asked: What is the reason for your keeping the 6th and 7th Fleets there? It is because you have interests there. Therefore, you cannot live in isolation. You must behave based on the fact that you are the only superpower in the world.

President Mubarak was asked: It seems you are saying that the United States has a reason to stay in Somalia and must stay there. However, what will happen if the U.S. forces withdraw by end of next March? You have peacekeeping troops there as well.

President Mubarak answered: I am not asking the United states to stay there forever or to withdraw now. During the recent OAU summit in June, we asked the Ethiopian president and other African leaders to meet with all Somali factions to arrive at a reconciliation at least. If the African leaders can do this with the help of the UN forces, I believe there is a possibility of forming a coalition government that can begin disarming the citizens. The Somali Government and people will do this with the help of other forces. However, for the foreign and UN forces to collect the weapons, this is a different matter.

Regarding the current fighting in Mogadishu between the forces of Farah Aidid and the forces of 'Ali Mehdi, President Mubarak said: I advise the foreign forces not to intervene in this fighting.

Asked whether this means that the UN forces should not get involved in this fighting, President Mubarak said: Correct; they should not get involved in the fighting. The African leaders must speak to the leaders of the various factions to persuade them to stop the fighting. The UN forces can help stop the fighting in their capacity as peacekeeping troops. This is my view of the subject.

The CNN interviewer asked President Mubarak about his personal assessment of President Clinton's performance. The interviewer noted that President Clinton was recently criticized by the U.S. media and by some of his political rivals for not paying too much attention to foreign policy.

President Mubarak said: President Clinton is a very intelligent person. From the beginning, he inherited huge international and internal problems. I believe all the measures President Clinton has taken so far are very good. I agree with him 100 percent.

On the kind of relationship they have, President Mubarak said: I have good and very friendly relations with the President. I admire him and I speak with him very frankly and sincerely. I feel at ease with him.

Al-Baz: U.S., Egypt Stands Identical

NC2710221693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2043 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Dr. Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, has announced that there is no difference between the Egyptian and U.S. positions on Middle East peace.

In remarks to Egyptian television correspondents in Washington tonight, al-Baz said: The U.S. position is very close to ours and is based on the understanding that progress on the Syrian-Israeli negotiating track must be achieved promptly.

Al-Baz said Egypt does not welcome Israel's idea that it cannot move on more than one track at once.

He added: We believe Israel must act in the context of the quest for a comprehensive peace. You cannot suggest stopping midway and then later picking up where you left off.

He noted that the Madrid conference was convened on the understanding of trying to achieve a comprehensive peace.

Dr. al-Baz stressed that the Egyptian Government is convinced that all views should be respected and that Syria has the right to demand speedy progress in its negotiations with Israel. He added that when the U.S. Government realizes Syria is earnest about this, it will naturally realize that Syria is serious about progress on the other negotiating tracks.

On President Mubarak's visit to Washington, Dr. al-Baz noted that preparations were long in the making, referring to particular developments pertaining to Egyptian-U.S. ties and other Middle Eastern events.

Al-Baz said Presidents Mubarak and Clinton had telephone conversations on the issue and Mubarak received U.S. envoys, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and several U.S. Congressmen. Al-Baz emphasized that these meetings were a basic part of the ongoing contacts between the two countries, because the U.S. Congress has greater responsibilities in the United States than similar institutions have in other countries. He added that all these contacts produced a program for the visit and a list was drawn up specifying the issues the two presidents would discuss.

Musa: Mubarak Visit 'Successful'

NC2710222293 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2031 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa announced that President Husni Mubarak will visit Damascus while on his way back to Cairo or a few days after he returns.

In statements to AL-AKHBAR that will be published tomorrow, Musa affirmed that Egypt plays an essential role in the peace process, especially because of President Mubarak's close and continuing contacts with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, and Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat. Musa noted the three leaders' confidence in President Mubarak.

He affirmed that President Mubarak's visit to Washington has been successful and achieved a high degree of U.S. understanding of the main issues that were discussed—the Middle East peace process; the situation in Africa, particularly in Somalia; and relations between the two countries.

He said the visit led to the continuation of the current level of U.S. aid to Egypt, increased investment in Egypt, the expansion of trade between the two countries, and improved coordination between them, especially on the peace process and on the situation in Somalia.

He said that the U.S. position on Egypt is a sign of appreciation for President Mubarak's role in the peace process and in African affairs.

The foreign minister noted that the statements by U.S. President Bill Clinton and U.S. Administration officials after the talks show their comprehension of the real situation in Egypt and their understanding of Egypt's firm measures against terrorism, which currently consists of nothing more than isolated incidents, similar to incidents that happen elsewhere in the world.

Musa commented on U.S. newspaper reports about differences of opinion between Presidents Mubarak and Clinton over the Syrian-Israeli track. He said the disagreement is over the timing, not over the goal, which is reaching agreements on the Syrian-Israeli and Lebanese-Israeli tracks.

Regarding the U.S. request that the Arab countries lift their boycott of Israel immediately, he said that during the Egyptian-U.S. talks, several problems were clarified, including the lifting of the Arab boycott of Israel, the settlements, disarmament, and the refugees. Musa pointed out that all these problems can be placed in the same basket and need to be solved at the same time.

Mubarak Concludes U.S. Visit

NC2810074393 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Excerpt] President Husni Mubarak and his accompanying delegation left Washington for Paris at dawn today following a 5-day visit to the United States during which he held intensive talks with President Bill Clinton and a number of senior U.S. officials. [passage omitted]

Mubarak Regrets Death of Frenchman in Shooting

NC2810095593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0730 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Paris, 28 Nov (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak expressed regret over the death of a French citizen and other victims in the incident that took place at the Semiramis Hotel in Cairo. He said that the incident was not a terrorist act, but the action of a sick person. He added that the killer is a mentally ill man, who has a history of mental illness and who was discharged from the Army for this reason. He said that such an action by a sick person could happen anywhere.

In an interview with the French paper LIBERATION published today, President Mubarak said: This incident will naturally affect tourism revenue, which has already been affected for several months as a result of terrorist actions. The situation has improved a great deal, but the focus has been on Egypt alone, despite the crisis that is sweeping the world.

Asked about the acts of violence in Asyut Governorate, President Mubarak said that the tradition of revenge has always been deeply rooted in Asyut Governorate. We have not been able to eliminate this tradition. It is this tradition that has played a role in what has happened there, and the fact is that the threat has not disappeared completely but has receded.

In response to a question about whether Iran has always been behind terrorism in Egypt, President Mubarak said: We are watching the Iranians. They are the cause of the deterioration in the relations between our two countries. We know that there are several trends in Iran. There are the moderates and the extremists. "But we will never forget their declaration that they have allocated $500 million to stir up trouble in the region."

On corruption, favoritism, and poverty as factors that encourage terrorism, President Mubarak said: Corruption exists everywhere in the world. When we discover corruption, it is immediately referred to the judiciary. Poverty exists everywhere, even in the United States and France, and there is more terrorism there than in Egypt. Still, I do not deny that economic problems and poverty play a role. We are making efforts for the sake of social justice and prosperity. But population increases aggravate the existing problems. Hence, the terrorists are exploiting this and offering money for bloodshed.

In response to a question about comparing Egypt with Iran, the president replied: There is no comparison between Egypt and Iran. We have different cultures, histories, and people. We had democratic experience and expertise before the Iranian revolution, and we have this new democratic experience, as well. There would not have been a single terrorist action in Egypt if the regime was a dictatorial one.

Asked to compare Egypt with Algeria, President Mubarak said: There is no comparison there, either. We have 7,000 years of civilization; we are a civilized country. Egypt cannot be compared with either Algeria or Iran.

Regarding the possibility of a dialogue with the Islamists and whether he rules this out altogether, President Mubarak said: We tried a dialogue with them about five years ago. This led nowhere, and now they are using weapons. Therefore we cannot open a dialogue with them. They are not Muslims. We will never grant legitimacy to religious political parties because this will open the way for religious wars: extremist Muslims against

moderates, Christians, and Jews. They also do not approve of democracy. I warned former Algerian President Chedli Bendjedid about the dangers of having a religious party in a Muslim country, but he did not listen to me and this is the result.

Asked if he was willing to make concessions to fundamentalists in the form a role for al-Azhar, President Mubarak said: I do not make concessions. We will fight anyone who carries arms against us. However, we have to explain the true concept of Islam to the youth who pursue a fundamentalist approach.

Asked about the growing number of women who wear the [Islamic head dress] hijab, President Mubarak remarked that all women were veiled in the 1940's. He remarked that the veil is more practical and less costly and that women are free to appear in whatever dress they prefer.

Responding to a question about corruption and fundamentalism, the president said that corruption is everywhere. Fundamentalists themselves are corrupt, he remarked.

On his third term of office and his order of priorities, the president said: I cannot step up the pace of economic reform any further. We will start with privatization. We hope we will be able to secure a better standard of living within two years. We embarked on our reform march long before the Eastern Bloc and the former Soviet Union. They started with political reform and ignored the economic. But man has to eat before he can work in politics. Therefore, economic reform should be stepped up.

The president was asked whether the expected peace in the Middle East would prompt Egypt to consider cuts in its military expenditure, which consumes 11 percent of its gross national product. He said that no one can predict what will happen in this crazy world. Peace with Israel means general peace in the region. But there are Iran, Somalia, and other problems in Africa and elsewhere. Nonetheless, we have reduced the number of armed forces, which had reached 1 million. However, he added, we cannot make a sizable reduction, because the Army is the central security factor for our Constitution, our people, and the entire state. The Army has a major significance that should be preserved, he stressed.

Answering a question on appointing a vice president, Mubarak said: If I appoint a vice president, they will immediately think that I have appointed a successor. Once I find the man with the necessary experience and efficiency, I will appoint him. Appointing a vice president does not mean that he would automatically be president. The people have to choose. I would not have become president after al-Sadat's assassination if the people had not chosen me.

Asked about his expectations for the Middle East peace process and the difficulties it might encounter, the president said that the late President Anwar al-Sadat was accused of treason when he signed the Camp David Accords and went to Israel. Many, including the PLO, demanded his execution. Despite the threats, we continued to spur the peace process onward until an agreement was reached between 'Arafat and Rabin. Some believe that the peace march will stop. But I maintain my belief that this march will continue, he affirmed.

The president added that Syria truly wants peace and wishes to resolve its problems with Israel. He remarked that some differences related to the timetable of the Israeli withdrawal from the Golan still persist. He added that Syria demands an Israeli commitment to full withdrawal from the Golan, while Yitzhaq Rabin wants Syria to explain its concept of peace and wants full normalization of relations. In fact, neither of the two sides has made any commitments yet; it is a matter of time and President al-Asad is a cautious man, Mubarak said.

Replying to a question on whether or not Lebanon represents a problem between Israel and Syria, President Mubarak said: I did not discuss that matter with President al-Asad. Anyway, peace is not far off; it could be achieved before the end of the year. We, and the Americans as well, are trying.

Asked whether opposition by a number of Palestinians could endanger the agreement, President Mubarak replied: Naturally, there will be problems, but halting the peace process would be difficult. Hence, the necessary aid must be given, and there must be investment in the occupied territories. The people know that peace is in everybody's interest and that there is no other way. The discussions will continue.

Asked whether he will go to Israel soon, the president replied: Why do we need to complicate things? Our relations with Israel are good. I talk to them from time to time, and my aim is to see Israel and Syria reach an agreement. I will go someday.

Asked whether he favors ending the Arab boycott of Israel, President Mubarak said: It is a sensitive issue and must be handled very secretly. President al-Asad has declared that the boycott will continue as long as the problems with Israel remain unresolved. I agree with this if it will get Syria to participate in the peace process.

Responding to another question, President Mubarak said: We are proceeding with the economic reform program and are expecting tardiness in aid. [sentence as received] Egypt will remain an influential country in the region. It is wrong to say that it will lose its role after peace is achieved. If they do not understand this in the United States, then they will do so in the future. Even if we reach a full solution to the Middle East problem, the region will not be 100 percent safe. There are still Iran and the extremists.

Asked what issues he will discuss with French President Francois Mitterrand during their meeting, President Mubarak said: Our relations with France have never been better. I do not believe that there is any problem that needs to be solved. I will meet with President

Mitterrand in my capacity as OAU chairman. We will also discuss peace in the Middle East.

Asked about the important role he has played in efforts to bring about a rapprochement between Libya and the West, President Mubarak said: I have worked on this issue a great deal, but I cannot have any expectations. There is progress at some times, and none at other times. It should be noted that al-Qadhdhafi is under conflicting pressures.

Asked whether there is still a role for France to play in the Middle East, the president said: I believe that it has an important role to play in the region. France is close to us and understands us, in terms of social and psychological aspects, better than any other country.

Embassy in Paris Issues Statement

NC2710172893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1653 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Paris, 27 Oct (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed his deep regret and sorrow for the death of Frenchman Fernand Bouland and other innocent people killed in a Cairo hotel incident yesterday evening. This came in an interview with President Mubarak to be published by the French newspaper LIBERATION tomorrow, Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian Embassy in Paris said in a statement today that the incident, in which Professor Bouland, a senior French judiciary member and a friend of Egypt, was killed, has provoked the anger of our whole country. It added that the murderer committed an utterly odious act.

The statement said that the Egyptian Embassy, which was dismayed by this crime, expresses to the family of the deceased and the whole of France feelings of sympathy and condolences. The statement added that despite its seriousness, the incident will only enhance the determination of the Egyptian Government and people to do whatever is necessary to secure the country's stability, citizens' safety, as well as "the safety of all our guests."

Western Media Coverage of Attack Criticized

NC2810081093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0620 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 28 (MENA)—AL-WAFD condemns the attack perpetrated by a mentally deranged man at the Semiramis Hotel the day before yesterday that killed three people and wounded four others. The paper condemns at the same time the hastiness of Western news agencies and some foreign newspapers in pinning this crime on Islam and Muslims.

In its editorial today, the paper, which expresses the views of the opposition party AL-WAFD, writes: While condemning this regrettable incident regardless of its perpetrator or source, we reject the way some Western media organizations confused the matter in such a way that it depicted the attack as a premeditated crime involving Islam and Muslims, despite all the evidence that shows that the perpetrator was a mentally deranged person who was dismissed from military service for that reason.

The paper expresses surprise at the West's hostility to Islam and Muslims, as if acts of violence are limited only to Muslim countries. It refers to the increased daily violence in London, the United States, Germany, and elsewhere in which people are killed and injured.

AL-WAFD stresses that Egypt's denunciation of acts of violence comes from Islam itself, which rejects this violence and calls for tolerance and honoring the guest regardless of his nationality or religion.

It then expresses its belief that the Western media is a prisoner of its own racist ideas that Islam is the number-one enemy of Western civilization. Therefore, the media does not use reason and concentrates its arrows on Islam and Muslims.

Sidqi: Hotel Shooting 'Isolated' Incident

NC2710211393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2038 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi has affirmed that the regrettable incident in the Semiramis Hotel last night that left three tourists dead is an isolated incident unrelated to terrorist operations.

In a statement to tomorrow's AL-AKHBAR, the prime minister said: All reports indicate the culprit is deranged. Dr. Sidqi said he will discuss with the interior minister the means to intensify guards on hotels and tourist sites and to coordinate efforts between the Ministry and the private security companies that provide security guards to the hotels.

More Information on Shooting Suspect Reported

NC2710151093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1412 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—A responsible security source at the Interior Ministry has released further information about the young man believed to be responsible for the random shooting at the Semiramis Hotel last night. The man, Sabir Muhammad Farahat, was dismissed from military service on medical grounds, having undergone psychological treatment at Manshiyat al-Bakri Hospital for some time. His service with the Armed Forces was terminated on 22 April 1989.

According to the source, the defendant graduated from the Music Institute, worked for a while as a performer in restaurants, and has recorded a commercial cassette tape of songs.

Farahat's relatives described him as an introspective man who is subject to fits of depression and aggression and who had been in an abnormal psychological state lately.

The security source denied newspaper reports about the arrest of two other individuals. Another person was under suspicion immediately after the incident but was proved to have nothing to do with it, the source disclosed.

The security source said that an investigation is under way, with the participation of the hotel's security officials, concerning the method by which Farahat was able to enter the hotel with a weapon.

The security source said that the Interior Ministry will keep the public informed of developments in the case.

Armed Forces Report on Shooting

NC2710160793 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] According to a report released by the Armed Forces' Medical Services Department, Sabir Muhammad Farahat, the man involved in the Semiramis Hotel shooting, is suffering from a severe mental illness that renders him fully incapacitated. The report says that Farahat was found unfit for military service, failing to meet the medical requirements for service set by the Armed Forces.

The report says that Farahat has undergone extensive treatment at military hospitals for an illness that has left him permanently and irreversibly disabled. He was proved to be medically unfit for service in the Armed Forces, and his service in the Armed Forces ended on 1 June 1989.

Meanwhile, Semiramis Hotel Security Chief Hamadah 'Ashush said that the man who fired at the restaurant guests is deranged, has no relation to the hotel's administration, and does not work for the hotel.

'Ashush said that the hotel has no policy of conducting body searches on its guests, but uses a metal detector to examine bags and personal possessions. 'Ashush said that the suspect did not shout any slogans when he surrendered to the police.

Answering a question on the means by which Farahat entered the hotel with a weapon, 'Ashush said that Farahat entered the hotel normally and was not subjected to any search because he carried nothing in his hands, apparently concealing the weapon in his clothes. 'Ashush added that hotels all over the world do not normally conduct body searches on guests. 'Ashush said that no reservations at the hotel have been canceled so far.

Interior Ministry on Incident

NC2710162793 Paris AFP in English 1542 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, Oct 27 (AFP)—The assailant who shot dead three Westerners and wounded three others in a blaze of gunfire in a Cairo luxury hotel acted alone, the interior ministry said Wednesday, insisting he was mentally unstable. [passage omitted]

Immediately after the attack, police arrested 29-year-old Farahat, a musician from one of Cairo's slum districts.

Witnesses said the gunman shouted the Islamic cry of "Allah Akbar" (God is great) before he opened fire and he cursed hotel guests drinking alcohol, which is banned under Islamic law.

As he was being arrested after the attack, which also injured three other foreigners, one of them seriously, he offered no resistance but denounced the killing of Moslems in Bosnia, witnesses said.

The U.S. embassy named the dead as Coby Hoffmann and Robert Guidi, both businessmen from New Jersey. The Frenchman killed was Professor Fernand Bouland, a former university dean of law and political science at Aix-en-Provence.

An American, a Syrian and an Italian were injured, police said.

The identity of the American was not disclosed but lawyer Muhammad 'Aqqad and Luigi Dagu, an Italian justice ministry adviser, were attending a seminar on criminal law at the Semiramis Inter-Continental hotel, together with Bouland.

The Italian, shot in the head, was in critical condition on Wednesday, his embassy said.

AL-AHRAM newspaper, meanwhile, said Farahat had been sacked from the hotel band on the grounds that he was unstable and barred from the building, where Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres met the PLO on October 13.

Condition of Injured Reported

NC2710212193 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2016 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—The team of doctors treating 40-year-old Italian Judge Luigi Daga, who was injured in the Semiramis Hotel incident yesterday and who is currently in the intensive care unit at al-Qasr al-'Ayni Hospital, said that the judge's condition has improved slightly. However, he is not out of danger and is currently on a respirator.

The team said that the patient is responding to external stimuli. In addition, his blood circulation is stable.

A private plane from Italy carrying the patient's wife, a brain surgeon, and a neurosurgeon [as received], which was sent by the Italian Government, arrived in Cairo this evening. The surgeons will examine the injured man.

The two Italian surgeons praised the medical measures and first aid the patient has received. They said the necessary arrangements to transport the patient to Italy have been made because of the patient's state of mind, not in order to change the methods of treatment.

On the other hand, the team of doctors treating 39-year-old American Merrill Kramer, who was also injured

in the incident, said that the patient has been transferred to the intensive care unit in al-Salam International Hospital. Surgery was performed on his right leg, which was severed in the incident.

The team of doctors explained that the patient's condition was stabilized after a tube was put into his chest, which was hit by a bullet.

Gunman Remanded to Police

NC2710222493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2110 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Cairo, 27 Oct (MENA)—The Cairo Central Prosecution Office tonight remanded Sabir Muhammad Farahat, who is accused of gunning down Semiramis Hotel guests last night, to police custody pending an investigation.

The Prosecution Office charged him with murdering three people, attempting to murder four others and possessing firearms without license.

Two hotel employees testified that the defendant was glancing about as he entered the hotel. He ordered a few drinks before he started shooting at hotel guests, the two employees told the police.

The Prosecution Office will continue its investigation tomorrow. Tourism Police officers, who arrested the defendant after the incident, and other hotel employees have yet to testify.

Police Brigadier General Shot Dead by Gunmen

NC2810095493 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Qina, Upper Egypt, 28 Oct (MENA)—Brigadier General Mahmud al-Dib, head of the Qina Security Directorate's Investigation Department, was killed today when unidentified gunmen opened fire at him at the Sidi 'Umar Square in the city of Qina.

Brig. Gen. al-Dib was taken to Qina General Hospital where he succumbed to his wounds.

The attack on the police brigadier general also resulted in the wounding of soldiers Fathi Muhammad 'Ali and Hamadah Jad Muhammad. Citizens Jad-al-Rab Muhammad Tizq and Najiyah Dassuqi 'Abd-al-Jalil, who happened to be in the area at the time of the attack, were also injured. The injured people were evacuated to Qina General Hospital, where they immediately underwent the necessary surgery to save their lives.

Maj. Gen. Muhammad Sadiq Barakat, the Qina Security Directorate chief, and officials from the Qina Criminal Investigation Branch went immediately to the site. Security forces encircled the area in search of the perpetrators.

Experts from the criminal laboratory went to the site to remove the spent bullets and examine the scene of the crime so as to pinpoint the make of the weapon used. The security organs are continuing their efforts to apprehend the culprits.

Libya

Trade Secretary Meets Iraqi Counterpart

LD2710160293 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1515 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Tripoli, 27 Oct, JANA—This morning, the brother secretary of planning, trade, and finance met with brother Muhammad Mahdi Salih, the minister of trade in brotherly Iraq, who is currently visiting the Great Jamahiriyah.

Brotherly ties between the two brotherly countries and the means to develop cooperation in all fields were discussed.

Morocco

Message Sent to Butrus-Ghali on Western Sahara

LD2710231393 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Abdellatif Filali, minister of state for foreign affairs and cooperation, sent a message to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali on Friday, 22 October 1993. Here now is the full text:

Your excellency the secretary general and dear friend: First, I would like to thank you once again for the efforts you are deploying that are aimed at finding a permanent and final settlement to the problem of the Sahara within a UN framework. I hope that these commendable efforts will not hit any deliberate obstacles caused by the enemies of peace, whose interest, as it regrettably seems, lie in maintaining the status quo.

To defeat the filthy goals of these enemies, it seems to me that it is necessary to provide the following clarification regarding this matter. In fact, all efforts should be made to prevent them from benefiting from the ambiguity that they are trying hard to create. The matter in question applies to the meeting planned for next Monday, 25 October, in New York.

The issue is related to a simple meeting between Saharans from all areas. This meeting will present them all with an opportunity to study and discuss the shape of their future within the Moroccan community. Therefore, there is a difference between the nature of this meeting and the nature of the process embarked upon by the United Nations, to which we are firmly committed first and foremost.

Consequently, this issue is in no way related to negotiations aimed at replacing the process already initiated by the United Nations, an impression that the enemies of a UN solution are trying hard to give.

I am certain that you have seen the trap that these people tried to lay for you. Nevertheless, I made sure to supply you with these clarifications in order to eliminate any ambiguity.

Secretary general and dear friend, please accept my sincere greetings.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Calls U.S. Symposium 'Hostile Act'

EA2710200793 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, president of the Republic, has confirmed Sudan's rejection of American interference in its internal affairs. He said the symposium that was held recently in Washington was regarded as a hostile act against Sudan because it aimed to adopt submissions from the rebel movement calling for secession.

In a meeting today with leaders of information and press bodies, the president of the Republic described what had been issued by the symposium as worthless. He said it called for the continuation of the war in the south, and he confirmed Sudan's rejection of foreign solutions, pointing out that the solution must be within the framework of a unified Sudan. He confirmed the government's eagerness to exert more effort to achieve a comprehensive peace in the country. Lt. Gen. 'Umar explained that there are some foreign quarters that are striving to impede peace efforts to pursue their own interests. His excellency added that the American accusations against Sudan concerning violations of human rights and its addition to the list of states that sponsor terrorism were aimed at thwarting peace efforts.

In his meeting with leaders of information and press bodies, Lt. Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir affirmed that direct democracy is the fundamental course of the national salvation revolution. He pointed out the successful experiment of the people's committee in supervision, service and political work and affirmed the revolution's eagerness to use methods of dialogue and discussion in dealing with the issues of the country. He also pointed out the Transitional National Assembly's supervisory role and its truly democratic practice in drawing up solutions and proposals for numerous issues. Lt. Gen. 'Umar said that to achieve more democracy and consultation, meetings would take place with scholars to consider issues concerning the country, to create an intellectual base for establishing [as heard] all walks of life. The president of the Republic added that the Islamic consultative system, which Sudan is striving for, will be an alternative system to the Western system.

Minister on 'Direct Role' of U.S.

EA2710195793 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Dr. Ali al-Hajj Muhammad, acting minister at the Federal Rule Office and the official spokesman of the government in the peace negotiations, has confirmed that the government is sticking to negotiations and to all initiatives for establishing peace in the country. He said at a meeting at the Federal Rule Office today, at the Friendship Hall, that the door of dialogue will remain open inside and outside the country for effective participation to firmly establish the pillars of peace.

Dr. Ali al-Hajj explained that the American Administration has a direct role in prompting all the southern groups and factions to act against the government and to work for self-determination and secession. He affirmed that the American Administration adopts all the submissions of the rebel movement and that its efforts aim to strengthen and unify the movement's sides in an endeavor to abort the Inter-Governmental Authority on Drought and Development initiative that began its consultations under the chairmanship of the Kenyan president, and the initiative of the former American president, Jimmy Carter.

Ali al-Hajj said that the nonparticipation of Sudan in the symposium held in Washington recently was in view of the fact that it was an anti-government forum and encouraged the fighting. He said the Sudanese opposition participated in the symposium. He denied that the government had participated by presenting a paper in the Washington symposium. Dr. Ali al-Hajj said the government does not govern in accordance with what Washington says, and that the decision finally was a Sudanese one. Contact would be made with all the factions to continue negotiations for establishing peace in the country.

Officials Criticize Symposium

EA2710192493 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Mr. 'Umar Yusuf Baridu, first under-secretary of the Foreign Ministry, denied that Sudan participated in a recent Washington symposium. This was due to the provocative title given to the symposium—Sudan, the Forgotten Tragedy—and the fact that the sides invited to attend are elements from the Sudanese opposition. At the regular Foreign Ministry forum today, his excellency stressed that Sudan welcomed all efforts to achieve peace in Sudan, and to deliver relief to the areas affected by the war.

He said: We appreciate the role the United States is performing in the achievement and formulation of international security and peace in various parts of the world by virtue of its membership in the UN Security Council and its status as a superpower. He said that this role made it incumbent on the United States to exercise objectivity and neutrality in dealing with such important and necessary issues of peace and security. He pointed out that, in terms of the Washington Declaration, the United States was not contributing to the path of peace in southern Sudan, but had instead sidelined the efforts of African states in coordination with former U.S. President Jimmy Carter. He explained that the agreement

made between the two rebel factions during the negotiations on the right to self-determination, which were held via the mediation of Harry Johnstone, director of the African Department in the American Congress, on 23 October in Washington, was not destined to succeed. He said the term self-determination mentioned in the agreement and the support expressed for it by the United States, had dangerous and sensitive implications. He expressed regret that the United States had adopted the rebels position.

On the other hand, Mr. Mahdi Ibrahim, director of political affairs in the Foreign Ministry, pointed out that Sudan has always stood for dialogue and participation in every forum outside the country. He said that Sudan's recently organized follow-up to the Washington symposium, confirmed that the symposium had not striven to bring the sides closer together to achieve peace. He said the information received confirmed that the symposium was intended to unify the rebel factions with a view to self-determination and secession. He stressed that the agreement entrenched the concept of secession, pointing out that the U.S. Administration, as represented by the African affairs' department of Congress, stood against all of Sudan's efforts to establish peace in the country.

Mashar on U.S. Symposium, Ties With SPLA

PM2610160193 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 24 Oct 93 p 6

[Interview with Dr. Riek Mashar, leader of the Sudanese "United People's Movement," by Sayyid Ahmad in Washington; date not given]

[Text] [Ahmad] What are the aims of your visit to the United States?

[Mashar] I am visiting the United States for the sake of reconciliation with (Colonel John) Garang's wing and to attend the conference entitled "Sudan: The Forgotten Tragedy." I also want to clarify the view of the United People's Movement [al-harakah al-sha'biyah al-muttahidah] on two issues: First, reunification of the movement, because the split has become very costly. Second, to consider after reconciliation and unification of the two wings the possibility of establishing a joint platform on which to negotiate with the Khartoum government.

[Ahmad] Why are you holding the talks now, and why in the United States?

[Mashar] Because the conference is here. As for reconciliation, it can happen anywhere, especially as three African states have offered to mediate. They are Eritrea, Kenya, and Uganda. There is also the Carter center and the Scandinavians, and the conference is part of these initiatives. We are calling for the coordination of all these efforts. But I do not know whether these talks are going to be moved from Washington to Atlanta or Kenya. I believe that the time has come to reconcile and reunify the two wings.

[Ahmad] In your view, what are the chances of success for these efforts?

[Mashar] I do not know. I know our side only. I do not know about Garang's wing.

[Ahmad] Does that mean that the call for reunifying the movement was made by you only?

[Mashar] I have been told that Garang wants reconciliation, but I am not certain, as I was waiting for, in the past, for two weeks in Nairobi and three days in Uganda.

[Ahmad] What do you expect from the conference?

[Mashar] To reunify the movement and crystallize an initiative regarding negotiation with the Khartoum government.

[Ahmad] Does your call for the separation of southern Sudan still stand?

[Mashar] Yes.

[Ahmad] There is nothing new in your talk about negotiation with Khartoum, because you are constantly making contacts with the Sudanese Government.

[Mashar] We talk with Khartoum, but our wing's negotiation with the government at different times and places has produced no results. For example, our wing talks with the government about self-determination and it seems to respond, but it talks with Garang about the Shari'ah—which is a waste of time.

[Ahmad] Why are you demanding the movement's reunification, when you have split from it?

[Mashar] First, the dispute has created a number of problems, squandered many lives and property, and made many southerners homeless. Second, we —Garang and I—realized that the beneficiary of all this is the enemy, which is why the government has become arrogant in the negotiations and is not seeking to achieve anything.

[Ahmad] So it can be said that the reason for your call for reconciliation is your real loss?

[Mashar] Yes. I do not want to lose the war, nor does Garang, and nor do the people of the south. Garang realized that he could not crush the al-Nasir wing. We are winning new support and territory every day, but at a very high cost.

[Ahmad] If you are reconciled in Atlanta, will your separatist program change?

[Mashar] I believe that the basic call will be for self-determination. This call will not change; in fact it will be reinforced.

[Ahmad] You insist on self-determination. What are the prospects for reconciliation, given that Garang is calling for Sudan's unity?

[Mashar] Garang has a different agenda, but all the south is calling for separation. Even Garang's army supports this call. This is why he has to continue to call for unity.

[Ahmad] What is your evidence that southerners want to separate?

[Mashar] Forces of the People's Army stress that fighters of this army are fighting for the sake of separation and liberation. They are amazed when Garang talks to them about the call for unity.

[Ahmad] There has been much talk about your alliance with the Sudanese Government, and it has been reported that you receive aid from it.

[Mashar] Our meeting with Sudanese officials in Frankfurt was an attempt to find a peaceful solution to the problem. The meeting issued a joint statement to the effect that southerners have the right to conduct a referendum on their destiny. The statement was not an agreement. As for the aid, I have no knowledge of it. The Frankfurt meeting was held in January 1992. Fighting and developments occurred after the meeting. If we received aid, why would we fight?

[Ahmad] With which important figures in the U.S. National Security Council and State Department did you meet?

[Mashar] I met with no one from the National Security Council. I met with officials at the State Department. We discussed the issue of restoring unity to the movement and the peace negotiations. We also assessed the political situation in Sudan.

[Ahmad] And what was the U.S. officials' position?

[Mashar] They stressed that they, like us, are interested in the issue of the split and war in Sudan. They expressed their hope that a peaceful solution to the Sudanese conflict would be reached.

[Ahmad] What do you expect from the U.S. Government, when it is suffering over its involvement in Somalia and has opened a front in Haiti and when President Bill Clinton is busy with domestic concerns? This is in the knowledge that the Americans have exerted all kinds of pressure on Sudan, most recently including it on the list of states sponsoring terrorism.

[Mashar] I expect them to help in the negotiations between the movement and the government. I believe that including Sudan on the terrorism list will cause the government to submit and to sit at the negotiating table.

[Ahmad] Nothing is left except the military option, and it is not clear whether the United States will accept an option of this kind after the Somalia experience.

[Mashar] Maybe the Americans' experience in Somalia has been bad, but that option is still possible, not necessarily in the same way as in Somalia. At any rate, it is premature to talk about this now, because they are still tackling the Somalia question.

[Ahmad] How can you achieve separation, when you are not fighting the government to achieve it?

[Mashar] Who said that we have stopped fighting the government? Garang says that. It is untrue. The last time Garang attacked the government was in Juba in July 1992. In October and November of the same year we launched a large-scale offensive against the government in Malakal and Kaduqli. No wing has launched any offensives this year. So it is untrue that Garang is fighting and we are not. The government's recent attack on Morobo near the Ugandan border was an attempt to close the border.

[Ahmad] What will happen to the al-Nasir wing if the present government falls?

[Mashar] We would continue the war with the new regime if it does not accept self-determination.

[Ahmad] And if the new government is a democratic one?

[Mashar] We want a democratic government in the south, and we will continue to fight for this, as we have already done. We are not fighting against democracy in the north. We are fighting for our right to self-determination—which does not mean that we are undemocratic. We will continue negotiation and fighting until correct solutions have been achieved.

[Ahmad] So you do not agree to the proposals made at the conference, such as the talk of an imminent change in the north and former Information Minister Buna Milwal's call to give the opposition Democratic National Grouping another chance before adopting the separation option.

[Mashar] Buna Milwal does not know what is happening in the south, and the grouping is the organization which we fought four years ago, when the parties belonging to it were ruling in Khartoum. There is nothing new in the Nairobi agreement between the grouping and Garang, because northerners have not committed themselves to the self-determination option.

Al-Bashir on Political Changes, Arab Unity

PM2710142093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Oct 93 pp1, 4

[Interview with President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir by Jamal Khashiqi and Kamal Hamid on 24 October in Khartoum]

[Text] [AL-HAYAH] What are the causes of the sudden changes affecting the Revolution Command Council [RCC] and your election as president of the republic?

[Al-Bashir] The changes were not sudden, although they may have appeared so to others. We had discussed and studied the matter some time ago. When we felt that the time was ripe for announcing the change, we did. Everything that has happened was included in the new draft political system approved by a national conference

attended by over 6,000 citizens over six months ago providing for the establishment of a presidential republic with the presidency sharing power with the National Assembly (parliament). That is what happened. The RCC members concluded that the National Assembly was doing its job as required, and therefore decided to divide power between the National Assembly and the president of the republic.

[AL-HAYAH] Will you be a presidential candidate in the next elections, and what will be the presidential term of office?

[Al-Bashir] We have not yet drafted the electoral law. We want to base the experiment on an Islamic vision. As regards my candidacy for the presidency, that matter is premature. We do not just give authority to anyone who seeks it. That is subject to study and assessment of performance. As regards the length of the presidential term of office, I certainly do not support the view that it should be for life.

[AL-HAYAH] You have said more than once that you do not wish to revive partisan plurality. Will that continue to be the case or was it just a necessary measure dictated by temporary circumstances?

[Al-Bashir] The new political system does not recognize the parties. They have failed three times in governing Sudan. They failed because the parties in Sudan were sectarian or ethnic entities. There will be no revival of the parties now, but I cannot judge the future. What is certain is that the Sudanese people unanimously agree that the partisan experiment was a failure and nearly destroyed Sudan's unity.

[AL-HAYAH] A visitor to Sudan feels the effects of the economic blockade and isolation and notices that the government has failed to provide for the people's needs. What, in your view, is the way out of this crisis?

[Al-Bashir] We admit the deterioration in our foreign relations and the economic blockade against us, but we also know perfectly well that our country is targeted because of its Islamic cultural leanings and its principled positions on some regional and international issues. We will not give in to pressure, and we will try to explain our position calmly and rationally. As regards the charges made against us, they are deliberate and carry their own denial within them. For example, we have been accused of not delivering the relief aid to the needy, even though we provide relief from our own resources and use our own means to transport it. They accuse us of waging a war in the south, although we are the ones burned by its fire. The victims of the war, our people in the south, are being forced to move to the north, but there was a time when they used to move to neighboring states. If we are against them, then why do they emigrate to the north? Because they know that the government means them no harm and is not against them because they are southerners.

[AL-HAYAH] We have noticed that the [Arab] media campaign against Sudan has stopped. Is that an indication that Sudanese-Arab relations are back to normal?

[Al-Bashir] We welcome the cessation of the unfair campaigns, which were the cause of the deterioration in Arab relations. I believe that all the Arab leaders wish to overcome the negative consequences of the Gulf war and to restore good relations. I hope that wish comes true, because the world is now moving toward unity and grouping. Even Europe, where differences resulted in a world war, is now working for unity. The Arab nation has all the makings of unity and integration. I believe that what is needed is that we surmount the past and all its wounds and look to the future. We in Sudan have a strategic food reserve, which will be needed by the Arab world in particular.

[AL-HAYAH] There have been reports claiming that the Sudanese authorities arrest and ill-treat their political adversaries.

[Al-Bashir] I do not deny that there are political detainees in the country, like everywhere else in the world, but the number of such detainees in Sudan is not even comparable to the numbers in other countries. There are only a small number in detention now, not exceeding a few dozens, but I want here to emphatically deny any excesses, torture, or ill-treatment. Such claims are a part of the media campaign against Sudan. We now have a law which governs precautionary detention, stating that such detention should be for one day, and there are orders that it should not exceed three days without the approval of higher authorities. If detention exceeds one month then the judicial authorities must look into the matter to ensure that a specific recommendation is made and that there is no torture or coercion and that the accused is given a chance to complain to the National Security Department, now headed by the vice president. A detainee is committed for trial by the judicial authorities if there is evidence against him. He is immediately released in the absence of such evidence. Much of what is published and broadcast about Sudan is tendentious. Human rights observers visited the country in the past and found no trace of that alarming picture. I reaffirm that the National Security Department is careful and that there is a place among us only for those who fear God and have a clear conscience. Excesses are met with deterrent punishme...

[AL-HAYAH] What is the latest on your country's relations with Egypt and Iran?

[Al-Bashir] Our relations with Egypt are the relations of brothers in the same house who might differ but remain brothers. That is what has happened. I met with brother President Husni Mubarak in Cairo when the latest African summit conference was in progress there. Only 15 minutes into the meeting, we discovered that the crisis was easy to resolve, and we referred it to the two foreign ministers. I am optimistic that relations will become better than before.

As regards our relations with Iran, they are very normal, but the media have tried to say otherwise, claiming that Iran uses us to finance fundamentalist movements in Africa. The truth is that it does not finance us, not even for the purchase of oil. If our relations with it were special it would have given us oil. I emphasize that these relations are very ordinary, like any relations between any two states. Even some of the joint projects agreed upon such as the peace road linking the north with the south did not continued as required and it finally stopped completely.

National Democratic Grouping Elects Leadership

PM2710101693 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Oct 93 p 5

[Unattributed report: "Sudanese Opposition Grouping Elects New Leadership Inside the Country"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Al-Khatim 'Adlan, member of the general council of the Sudanese opposition National Democratic Grouping, has said that workers have been able to complete their organizations from the base to the top. They have elected representatives to the grouping as a general union for the first time. It is a union outside government organizations—which enabled the grouping to hold a meeting for its general council after preparations that lasted two months.

The grouping's council held its meeting in two sessions late last month and early this month.

'Adlan said that participants agreed that Sudan "is approaching an important and serious phase characterized by an escalation in action against the regime on more than one front—which compels the grouping to further rehabilitate itself to play a leading role."

Participants also elected a new secretariat for the grouping characterized by broad representation and acceptable to all participating parties. They drew up the adequate guarantees for effective and continuous performance in anticipation of the strikes the authorities could launch against the grouping's forces. They also agreed on a suitable form for the council's meetings and on completing the basic structures by forming the necessary offices and strengthening links with provinces and those outside the country.

'Adlan pointed out that the demonstrations witnessed in Sudanese cities recently initially occurred spontaneously as a result of the suffocating crisis the country is experiencing, then the grouping's forces participated in them—a courageous step toward breaking the fear barrier, as is clear from the situation among students, since the regime has begun to lose its most secure positions. Proof of this is the efforts of the Islamic tendency, which introduced the direct free election system in Khartoum University when it had control over the grassroots, to return to the proportional representation system. The elections held to amend the constitution of the students' union of Khartoum University produced a victory for the grouping's forces with a margin of 4,500 votes. This is in addition to the grouping forces' control of the unions of the public university, Islamic university, al-Jazirah, and Juba.

'Adlan added that among the activities the grouping carried out recently was the preparation of documented statements on human rights violations in Sudan. They were handed to the [UN] special envoy Caspar Pero [as transliterated] during his visit to Khartoum last month. The lists included the names of those dismissed, documented evidence of all assassination cases, and the massacres committed in Hayban, Juba, and Korongo 'Abd Allah, and the names of those who are missing.

All these statements were submitted in the name of the National Democratic Grouping, which submitted an additional political memorandum clarifying its view of what is happening in the country. It was also agreed to find a link and channel through which to report any new human rights violations in Sudan.

'Adlan, an opposition leader inside the country, said that he had left Sudan recently with a specific and temporary task, namely to strengthen the relationship between those inside the country and those outside and to discuss issues in detail with all the grouping's forces abroad, especially some of the required aspects of support. And also to initiate an extensive debate on the unification of contemporary forces.

Western Sahara

Polisario Seeks Direct Talks With Morocco

LD2710120093 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 0600 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Excerpts] Polisario [Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro] is interested in conducting true, serious, and responsible talks with Morocco, tackling the very core of the issue, with the aim of finding a settlement to the conflict in Western Sahara. This was announced by Mustapha Bachir, head of the Saharan delegation to the talks in New York.

In a statement to a Western news agency, the Saharan official pointed out that the Polisario Front is anxious that these talks should permit the attainment of a final agreement, not only on issues which are still obstructing the UN peace plan, but also on issues that go beyond the holding of the referendum. [passage omitted]

The Saharan official said the Moroccan delegation contains fugitive Saharans who are not truly representative of anything. He expressed his desire to hold talks with the Moroccan Government. The Moroccan authorities, who rule out holding direct talks with Polisario, said that according to a commitment made to the United Nations each side is free to appoint the members of its delegation to the New York talks.

It is worth pointing out that the Polisario members yesterday held talks with representatives of six UN Security Council members that have closely monitored the Saharan conflict. These are the United States, Spain, France, Britain, Venezuela, and Cape Verde.

GCC Fails To Reach Accord on Customs Tariffs

LD2710223093 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Excerpt] Their excellencies the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] ministers of finance and economy this afternoon ended the 34th session of the GCC Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee, which began last night in the headquarters of the Riyadh General Secretariat.

His Excellency Ahmad Bin-Humayyid al-Tayir, UAE minister of state for financial and industrial affairs, chaired the meeting.

His Excellency Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, Saudi Minister of Finance and National Economy, said the issue of common customs tariffs with GCC states for goods coming from outside these countries was important but did not hinder the path of economic cooperation between GCC countries.

His excellency added in a press statement at the end of the GCC Financial and Economic Cooperation Committee session today, that what was currently taking place in the exchange of locally produced goods within the GCC without restraints or customs tariffs and expansion, it was more important to achieve economic unity than in forming a common customs tariff for goods coming from abroad.

His excellency clarified that the topic of a common customs tariff between GCC states took up the larger part of the discussions, because it contained a lot of technical and economic details. They needed to measure the effect of a common tariff on each country one at a time and to choose the criteria that would come under the common tariff. There were still parts of it that had not yet been completed.

His excellency said there were no problems because it had not been completed. It was not a matter of differences as much as one aspect not yet having been completed. Having a common customs tariff was a wide issue that consisted of different technical and economic matters. So, all aspects have to be covered before a final decision is taken.

Asked if compensation for damages hindered agreement being reached on a common customs tariff, his excellency said: "No, because compromise would solve the problem, but finding a compromise for every good while taking into consideration the volume of trade in every country on its own merit, is a matter that requires a lot of time and effort." [sentence as heard]

His Excellency Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl clarified that the reason for delay in reaching a final decision on a common customs tariff was because of the many details that needed to be covered and because they needed more time than they were given, including to unify and categorize goods in the GCC, and to draw up unified and categorized lists in line with the international system.

His excellency said the committee would raise the matter at the next summit of their majesties and royal highnesses, the leaders of the GCC, asking permission to continue working to complete the remaining details in that issue and until all details were covered.

His excellency the finance and national economy minister said that whatever differences in custom tariffs in GCC states, they remained a lot less than in other countries. The differences between them [the GCC states] were small and would not have an effect on unified economic activity within the council.

His Excellency Nasir 'Abdallah al-Rawdan, second deputy prime minister and finance and planning minister in Kuwait, clarified that the GCC Finance and Economic Cooperation Committee took positive decisions on a number of topics down for discussion. His excellency indicated in a similar statement that extending conditions concerning possession of property and unifying the treatment of transport companies were among those decisions. He said that it was agreed that aircraft companies would be treated the same among all Gulf countries without there being the need for agents or restrictions on three companies and they are the Saudi, Kuwaiti, and Qatari airlines. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Minister Views Iraqi Marshlands Draining

NC2810091693 Paris AFP in English 2022 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait City, Oct 27 (AFP) - The draining of marshlands in southeastern Iraq is threatening the ecology of the Gulf, Kuwaiti Health Minister 'Abd-al-Wahab al-Fawzan warned here Wednesday [27 October] at a regional meeting on environmental protection.

"As it drains the marshlands the Iraqi regime pours polluted water into the Gulf, which is threatening the general ecological balance," al-Fawzan said.

Iran and the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)—Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain and Oman—are attending the ministerial meeting on protection of the marine environment, due to end Thursday.

Since the end of the Gulf War in February 1991 Iraq has launched several artificial river schemes in the centre and south of the country. Opposition groups and international organisations have accused Baghdad of deliberately draining the southern marshlands, largely populated by Shiite Moslems.

Al-Fawzan urged countries in the Gulf region to "do everything possible to stop the deterioration of the marine environment."

A huge slick amounting to an estimated six million barrels of oil polluted the Gulf after Iraqi forces in Kuwait blew up oil wells and pipelines.

One of 11 Fishermen Detained in Iran Released

LD2710225093 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1918 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Kuwait, 27 Oct. 1993, KUNA—An official security source has announced today the return of one of the 11 Kuwaiti fishermen detained by the Iranian authorities, following their entry into Iranian regional waters.

The source told KUNA that contacts are under way for the handover and return of the rest of the Kuwaiti fishermen within the next few days.

The official source at the Interior Ministry Public Relations Administration opened his statement by mentioning the Kuwaiti security authorities' release of eight Iranian fishermen yesterday.

He said that those eight fishermen were arrested by a coast guard patrol as they entered Kuwait's territorial waters attempting to fish shrimp, thus violating the laws observed under such circumstances.

He pointed out that within the context of the mutual cooperation and coordination between the two countries, and out of understanding for the nature of the fishermen's work and the violations that usually occur inside territorial waters in neighboring countries, the last of which was the entry of 11 Kuwaiti fishermen into Iranian territorial waters and their detention by the Iranian coast guard patrol, one of whom was released after investigation.

The source said the Kuwaiti fisherman named "Jasim al-Mutaw'ah," who returned this afternoon, stated that all of the Kuwaiti fishermen detained by the Iranian authorities are well.

The source concluded its statement by praising the stand of the Iranian coast guard authorities, which work within a framework of cooperation and coordination with the Kuwaiti coast guards to curb these violations perpetrated by the fishermen of the two neighborly countries.

Oman

Minister of State Confers With PLO's Bal'awi

JN2710153693 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Muscat, 27 Oct (WAKH)—Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, Omani minister of state for foreign affairs, today received Ambassador Hakam Bal'awi, the PLO's representative in Tunisia. During the meeting, they discussed developments in the Palestine question in light of the recently signed agreement between the Palestinians and Israelis, as well as issues of mutual interest.

Qatar

Minister Denies Natural Gas Accord With Israel

JN2810105893 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1012 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Doha, 28 Oct (WAKH)—Qatar today denied rumors propagated by Israeli sources that an agreement will be signed between a Gulf state, which could be Qatar, and Israel in the next few weeks on the construction of a natural gas pipeline to Israel.

'Abdallah Bin-Hamad al-'Atiyah, the Qatari minister of energy and industry, described these rumors as illogical and unrealistic.

In a statement to the Qatari news agency, al-'Atiyah said that the Arab economic embargo based on an Arab League decision remains valid and that Qatar and the Gulf Cooperation Council states are fully committed to this embargo.

He added that thinking about any economic relations between these states and Israel or presenting any ideas in this regard lacks objectivity unless the Arab League Council decides to cancel its previous decision.

United Arab Emirates

Foreign Minister Meets Visiting U.S. Official

JN2710153493 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1410 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 27 Oct (WAKH)—Rashid Bin-'Abdallah, foreign minister of the United Arab Emirates [UAE], met here today with Ambassador Frances Cook, U.S. assistant secretary of state for political and military affairs, currently visiting the UAE.

During the meeting, they reviewed the current regional situation and developments in the Middle East peace process in light of the Palestinian-Israeli agreement on self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, as well as developments in Somalia and Bosnia-Herzegovina.

They also discussed ways to promote and enhance bilateral cooperation in various fields.

Yemen

Foreign Minister Returns From Djibouti

JN2710175993 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Brother Foreign Minister Muhammad Salim Basindwah returned to Sanaa from Djibouti this afternoon following a short visit during which he delivered a message from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother President Hassan Gouled of fraternal Djibouti. The message

deals with bilateral cooperation between the two sisterly countries and developments in both the Horn of Africa and the Arab homeland.

In a statement to the Yemeni news agency, SABA', brother Basindwah explained that during the visit he met with his counterpart in Djibouti brother Mohammed Abdou. They discussed aspects of bilateral cooperation and coordination and ways to promote and consolidate them to serve the common interests of both peoples in the two fraternal countries.

'Western Scheme' To Replace Saddam Cited

NC2710174293 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Well-informed sources have disclosed a hideous Western scheme to rob the Iraqi opposition of its aspirations and deny it the fruits of its efforts and sacrifices. According to these sources, Western politicians are currently preparing a scheme to undermine the current Iraqi situation and find a suitable substitute for the tyrant Saddam, one that would primarily serve Western goals.

According to the same sources, former Iraqi President 'Abd-al-Rahman Muhammad 'Arif is high on the list of candidates. One advocate of the scheme said that 'Arif's selection is due to logistical reasons involving political, demographic, and social conditions in Iraq. He added that this plan will take into consideration the programs proposed by all the Iraqi opposition parties and groups. However, we have no doubt that this is only a lie to win support for the scheme.

Marshlands Reportedly Still Under Attack

NC2710174793 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Villages and other rural areas in al-'Amarah [Maysan] Governorate have been the target of attacks and artillery bombardment by the regime's forces over the past month. According to reports from those areas, Republican Guard units are setting fire to villages and residential areas in the subdistricts bordering the al-'Amarah marshlands.

The reports add that the Republican Guard's 'Adnan Khayrallah Forces [named after the late defense minister] burned houses lying between al-Maymunah District and Sayyid Ahmad area near the marshlands. The citizens were forced to flee their homes, leaving behind their household effects, livestock, and even their wounded.

These attacks follow escalating popular resistance operations. The authorities have given residents an ultimatum to evacuate the area within 24 hours.

Car Bomb, Purges Reported in Tikrit District

NC2710154493 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] After the attempted military coup d'etat carried out against the tyrant Saddam by army officers and other figures belonging to tribes in the Tikrit District, the tyrant's authorities began a widespread purge of all official departments there.

According to reports sent by our sources in Tikrit, the campaign included the dismissal of all senior officials [words indistinct] in those departments and their replacement by others whose loyalty to the tyrant Saddam is not suspected.

In the context of the same purge, 50 army officers with ranks ranging from captain to colonel, all natives of Tikrit, were dismissed last week and 20 other officers were detained.

Our sources add that since the coup attempt, Saddam's regime has stopped relying on the relatives and friends of the persons who participated in the attempted overthrow of the regime. The regime has lost trust in all individuals surrounded by even a hint of suspicion, those who have expressed sympathy with the detainees, or protested against the regime during the events in question.

A violent explosion shook Tikrit last week after a booby-trapped car, rigged with 10 kg of explosives, detonated at the government headquarters in the city. The city is in rebellion against the tyrant Saddam's regime.

Informed sources said a leaflet was distributed to a large crowd of citizens who gathered in the area after the explosion. The leaflet, signed by the leaders of anti-Saddam tribes in the Tikrit District, threatened to carry out similar operations in the future.

It is noteworthy that the Tikrit District was formerly the tyrant's winning card. It finally rebelled and is now demanding radical changes in the country's leadership, represented by the tyrant Saddam.

Fatah Dissidents Said Responsible for Gaza Murders

TA2710161293 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 27 Oct 93 p 7

[Report by 'Uzi Mahanymi]

[Text] A group that emerged from Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah organization is responsible for the recent spate of murders in the territories, including the murder of As'ad al-Saftawi in Gaza.

Sources associated with the Fatah security aparatus in Tunis have reported that a new organization of Fatah activists who oppose the peace process has been set up some three weeks ago. This organization aims at eliminating Fatah leaders in the territories before Yasir 'Arafat arrives in Jericho and Gaza.

By January 1994, the organization plans to assassinate at least three more Fatah activists in the territories.

According to Fatah activists with whom we spoke, the new organization is affiliated with Abu-Nidal's [Sabri al-Banna] organization.

Some also believe that the murderers are being led by several members of the "western sector," the Fatah terror center which was cast aside by the peace process.

Hakam Bal'awi, who is in charge of the Fatah intelligence and security, has recently launched a purging campaign in the ranks of the organization's security aparatus.

Dozens have been jailed and interrogated in the Fatah prisons in Tunis in an effort to find who is behind this new organization. The Fatah security personnel suspects a group of young Gazans who had been wanted by Israel. Among them is Samahadna who has managed to escape, and made some headlines when he posed before cameras while murdering a collaborator on a busy street in Gaza.

It has been learned that Samahadna has been summoned to Tunis, together with some of his comrades, for a talk with Yasir 'Arafat. The results of the conversation were not published.

It has been learned that, while in Paris last week, Yasir 'Arafat received a letter from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activists in the territories denying involvement in the murder of As'ad al-Saftawi.

Soldier Injured; 'Terrorists' Given Life Sentences

TA2710202293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 2000 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Israel Electric Corporation workers doing repair work in the town of Gaza were stoned, and an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldier guarding them sustained moderate injuries to his head. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that the injured soldier was treated on the spot and then evacuated to the hospital.

The Gaza military court has imposed a life sentence on two terrorists, members of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement's] 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam squad. Kamis Hadi 'Aqil, 27, from al-Nusayrat, was convicted of murdering Doron Shorshan of Kfar Darom, as well as 17 Gaza Strip residents suspected of collaboration with Israel. He was also convicted of four murder attempts and of throwing a bomb at the security forces. Mazin al-Nahil, 26, from Rafah, was convicted of murdering four residents suspected of collaboration with Israel.

Palestinian Police To Operate as of 29 Oct

TA2710194893 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Announcer-read report]

[Excerpt] The Palestinian police force intends to operate in Jericho as of 29 October. The Palestinians will establish their training base at Musa al-'Alami's agricultural farm near the Allenby Bridge. [passage omitted]

Pardons Recommended for Certain Prisoners

TA2810143293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1300 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Education and Culture Minister Amnon Rubinstein, in his capacity as acting justice minister, has recommended the pardon of approximately half of the 22 Palestinian prisoners whose release was held up several days ago [sentence as heard]. The recommendations have already been placed on the president's desk.

The remaining requests for amnesty on behalf of the other prisoners whose release was held up will be handled by Justice Minister David Liba'i, who today returned from abroad.

State Watches Jewish Extremists, Meets Hamas Moderates

TA2710172893 Tel Aviv HA'OLAM HAZE in Hebrew 27 Oct 93 p 3

[Report by Yehuda Litani]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Since 13 September, the Shin Bet has been very busy dealing with the return of the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Fatah deportees, the release of security prisoners, the prevention of political assassinations and terror acts by the various organizations opposing the Jericho agreement.

In addition, a special Shin Bet department has been dealing with preventing the settlers from setting up organizations. The same department handled the Jewish underground 10 years ago. The acting characters and the intelligence targets are different, the missions are not.

Over the past several weeks, security officials have been receiving reports that several groups in the settlements are preparing to prevent implementation of the autonomy agreement, and specifically to prevent the operation of the new autonomy police force at all costs.

Among other things, it has been learned that they intend to attack police—or as the PLO calls them "internal-security police force"—stations and individual policemen.

This is a complicated and delicate job, security officials close to the issue have said. According to various estimates, "the hard core" settlers, those who may potentially take action or support it, are estimated between 5,000 and 10,000. There are only a few dozen activists in the groups—and so far they have been strictly called groups, not underground organizations.

The Shin Bet is closely following all potential activists. The efforts mainly focus on specific settlements: Hebron, Qiryat Arba', 'Ofra, and Bet El. [passage omitted]

"We know," security sources have said, "that the activists seek the blessing of their favorite rabbis. This was also the pattern in the operations of the Jewish underground in the 1980's.

"Today, many rabbis oppose such activities, but if certain rabbis give their blessing—and it seems to us that rabbis with radical ideas can be found—terror activities will definitely take place."

Intelligence work has recently been focusing on those militant rabbis in the settlements.

"The big question is when to act, when to deliver the preemptive blow? It is believed that it will happen only after the Palestinian police begins working. The extremists are expected to take first action then. We are not groping in the dark in the mean time, however. Data on candidate activists, which is being stored in our computers, includes resumes, pictures, recent activity report and estimates on activity for the near future."

In the coming few months, a more moderate Hamas movement is expected to form in the Gaza Strip, expected to operate in parallel with the extremist mainstream Hamas. The new current will be made of young men in their 20's and 30's, most of them Israeli prisons graduates. They wish to hold a dialogue on the autonomy with the PLO and to establish a Palestinian state with it.

They believe that, at this stage, they would rather be an influential opposition in the PLO. Some members of this group have been meeting a group of Israeli Government officials, headed by Health Minister Hayim Ramon. These young men do not represent the stands of the leadership, mostly still in Marj al-Zuhur in south Lebanon, and the meetings are held without the leadership's knowledge.

Security officials believe that the idea of holding a real dialogue with the Hamas activists is still too far removed. The talks currently held will, at the most, take the moderates out of the ranks of the organization.

According to the sources, the "Hamas deportees" are currently heading the opposition activities in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

At the beginning of last week, security officials have recommended that, in the framework of the release of the Palestinian prisoners, the release of Hamas prisoners should be avoided to the extent possible.

President Weizman Invites al-Asad To Visit

TA2810123793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] President 'Ezer Weizman says that if for some reason Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad cannot invite him to Damascus, then he is inviting al-Asad to come to Israel. President Weizman believes that al-Asad is interested in meeting with Israeli leaders and that eventually they will reach a stage of substantial talks with Syria. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv reports that President Weizman made these remarks during a tour of the Golan Heights.

Likud Members To Meet With 'Arafat in Tunis

TA2810084493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Likud members who expressed supported for the PLO-Israel agreement have been invited to Tunis to meet with Yasir 'Arafat. The group, which will go to Tunis in 10 days, will comprise 10 Likud Central Committee members, some of them heads of local councils. This was reported by Mayor Eli Levi of 'Ilut in the north to our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling. Levi says that the contacts and arrangements regarding the group's visit were made without the knowledge of the Likud leadership and without a request for its approval. According to Levi, at least half of the Likud Central Committee members are what he termed moderates who were not raised on Jabotinsky's [founder of the Zionist Revisionist movement] teachings and who are averse to any right-wing extremism.

Spokesman Warns Against 'Arafat Meeting

TA2810115493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1100 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The Likud spokesman says that Likud members who intend to go to Tunis constitute a marginal phenomenon. He claims that Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu has launched a political debate in the party institutions in order to enable every party member to raise proposals, but that there is no room for private foreign policy initiatives in the Likud and party decisions bind all members.

Our party affairs correspondent Shmu'el Tal reports that the spokesman emphasized that those who act against these decisions will find themselves outside the Likud and will not be able to represent it.

Palestinian Bid To Join IOC To Be Thwarted

TA2810100093 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 28 Oct 93 p 2

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] Israel will continue to oppose a request to join the International Olympic Committee, made in the name of "the State of Palestine." This was decided in a meeting between Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin, Yoram

Oberkovich, head of the Israel Olympic Committee; and members of the Israel Soccer Association.

The deputy foreign minister will direct Israeli representatives abroad to thwart the initiative. Regarding the issue of Israel's participation in the Mediterranean Games, it has been decided that the issue should be promoted by enlisting the support of relevant countries. Israeli representatives abroad will be asked to act on this issue as well.

Annual Budget of Shin Bet, Mosad Reported

TA2810093493 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 28 Oct 93 p A1

[Report by security affairs correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] The annual budget of the secret services—the Shin Bet and the Mosad—is less than a billion shekels.

The Shin Bet and Mosad budgets are included in the general reserves clause of the state budget and are not mentioned in the open budget book. The details of this budget are presented before the Subcommittee on Intelligence of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and its members approve the transfer of the funds from the general reserves to the secret services. The budgets of both services are also supervised by the Finance Ministry's Budget Department.

Two members of the Subcommittee on Intelligence—Knesset Member [MK] Ori Or, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, and MK Eliyahu Ben-Elisar, head of the Likud faction representatives on the committee—have said that they will not oppose disclosing the total budget of the secret services, provided that it is published without the details. They believe that making the figure public will not harm state security.

[In a related article on page B1 of the same issue of Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew, Aluf Ben adds that as a result of pressure from Knesset Finance Committee Chairman Gedalya Gal and from the Finance Ministry, "the open state budget book for the first time lists the figures of the defense establishment's future financial commitments as well as its expected income from the sale of surplus arms and equipment and from lending out the services of standing army soldiers to civilian bodies."]

Shahal Denies Qatar To Suspend Gas Accord

TA2810061693 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Oct 93 pp 1, 15

[Text] Qatar has decided to postpone signing an agreement with Israel on the supply of natural gas for the time being as a result of Energy Minister Moshe Shahal's disclosure of the planned agreement.

A message to this effect was received last night by Jerusalem political decisionmakers. Political sources expressed the fear that Shahal's "desire for media exposure" may lead to the indefinite postponement of the agreement with Qatar.

Energy and Infrastructure Minister Shahal was behind recent reports that Qatar intends to sign a memorandum on the supply of natural gas to Israel in two weeks. Shahal disclosed that three delegations of energy experts and businessmen from Qatar visited Israel last month and met with experts in the field. According to the agreement, the natural gas will be shipped to Israel by tankers, and a gas pipeline is planned for the future.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 28 October adds that "Minister Shahal has denied reports published this morning that Qatar has decided to postpone the natural gas agreement with Israel because of the publicity given to the issue in the media. Minister Shahal told our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling that contacts are continuing and that all the arrangements reached remain valid.

["Our correspondent has learned more details about the agreement: The natural gas is to be transported by tankers to the Israeli port of Elat in a liquid state. In Elat, it will be returned to a gaseous state and will be transferred via pipelines to Ashdod or Ashqelon, from where it will be transported through an underwater pipeline to Greece and from there to other countries in Europe."]

Hungarian Defense Minister Signs Principles Accord

TA2810081193 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Hungarian Defense Minister Lajos Fur met this morning with Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, in the latter's Tel Aviv office. The two signed a document of principles on defense ties between Israel and Hungary.

Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that there is a possibility of Israeli companies upgrading Hungarian MiG-21's. The visiting minister will visit the Israel Military Industries and the Elbit computer company.

PRC's Agriculture Minister Arrives 27 Oct

TA2710194493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The Chinese agriculture minister arrived for a visit in Israel. Upon arrival, the guest said he wants to study how Israel has managed to overcome the shortage of water and conquer the desert. Our correspondent Ya'aqov Balsenboim reports that an agreement will be signed during the visit, according to which Israel will set up an agricultural farm in the PRC.

King Husayn Discusses Jerusalem, Elections

JN2810094393 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Oct 93 pp 1,3

["Transcript" of Jordanian King Husayn's interview with the LOS ANGELES TIMES SYNDICATE Global Viewpoint Service—conducted in Amman on 17 October]

[Text] Global Viewpoint: Now that the external foil of the "Zionist enemy" is being removed by the PLO-Israeli peace process, won't the Arab States be deprived of their reason for national unity and be forced to look inward? There is no longer any excuse for autocratic rulers not to open up their societies.

King Husayn: I hope this will happen. There is no doubt that the rug will be pulled from under the feet of many a leader in the region who used the confrontation with Israel to aspire to or justify his own power. Time and again that has been the root cause of instability in the region.

I have been saying for a long time that this region should emulate the European model of integration, since there is so much complementarity. If relations can be based on mutual respect, we can move away from confrontation.

Our Palestinian brethren insist at this point that they want a confederation with Jordan. I insist we do nothing except work from the grass roots upward. And that requires an opening up of Arab society so that any coming together is something that is natural, normal and meaningful.

This same logic would apply to a broader integration of the region. We have seen so many efforts at unity, but they have all failed because they weren't built from the grass roots upward. Now, with the PLO settling their affairs with Israel, we may for the first time have this opportunity.

True unity can only happen when there is pluralism and freedom of expression so that we can deal with each other on a people-to-people basis. Then the relationships mean something and are not based on the whims or moods of unaccountable leaders.

To crown this hope of peace based on new democratic possibilities in the Arab World, I as a Muslim, a Hashemite, an Arab, and as a person who seeks to satisfy my conscience, have called for talks to achieve an accord on the Holy Places in Jerusalem which removes all sovereign claims except for those of Almighty God.

All followers of the three great monotheistic religions—Muslims, Jews and Christians—should enjoy worshiping side by side, as God meant it to be. If that happens, then the ripples will go not only to our immediate region, but affect the world as well.

GV: What specifically do you have in mind?

King: The Holy Places of Jerusalem should be moved out of the orbit of the attempts of any to impose sovereignty over them. That alone belongs to Almighty God.

The rights of all should be equally recognised. A dialogue should produce the kind of meeting of the followers of the three monotheistic religions aimed at forging a peace, which has not been our fortune for far too long.

The Holy City should be separated from any temporal sovereignty, which I hope will also represent the coming together of the Palestinians and Israelis on this question.

GV: The Christian theologian, Hans Kung, has written that, "The three Abrahamic religions need a religious symbol, a common holy place as a great sign that they all three worship the one God of Abraham and therefore have something in common that overcomes all divisions and enmity.

"The fact is that there already is a sanctuary of the God of Abraham, the Dome of the Rock. It is a unique holy place on the old temple site in Jerusalem. According to the Jewish and Muslim tradition, the Dome of the Rock commemorates not only the blinding of Abraham's son, Isaac, but also the creation of Adam, and will be the scene of world judgement.

"Is it so utterly absurd to believe that Jews, Muslims and Christians could pray to the one God of Abraham at this holy place" In this way, the Dome of the Rock would be a Dome of Reconciliation?"

Is Kung's proposal in the realm of what you have in mind?

King: Jerusalem can be this site of reconciliation. The details will have to be worked out and cannot embrace any specific proposal. But the overall spirit expressed here is what I have in mind.

GV: Presumably, the parliament that gets elected in Jordan on November 8 will have to approve any peace treaty between Jordan and Israel. Yet, the leader of the Islamic Action Front, Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, has called the PLO-Israeli accord the first step toward a "Middle East region" dominated by Israel, a "Trojan horse" for Jordan and the "Arab World"

If the Islamic Action Front wins the 25-30 seats they expect, will that enable them to block a peace treaty?

King: I think that, regardless of any other factor, Jordanians, when they assume their responsibilities, are very pragmatic. I hope they will act more responsibly in the times ahead. As far as this leader is concerned, I am utterly committed to the cause of lasting peace that will change the situation in the region entirely. I do not know what will happen in the coming period. It is up to the electorate to decide.

This country is comprised of Muslims as well as many Christians, and they will all be represented in the coming parliament. I don't think they will let themselves down, let the Palestinians down, or let me down.

GV: You are in the odd situation of being a monarch who is the leading proponent of democracy in the Arab world. What is behind this new democratic model you are promoting in Jordan?

King: My belief in my people is firm. My duty to them is to enable them to partake in shaping their future. Our democratisation is not new. We have been trying to do it but have not been able to continue in a normal way for many years.

In 1956, we held free elections. But then people in Jordan, including myself, believed in Arab unity. Many did not believe that this country had anything distinct to offer. So, political pluralism did not really exist except insofar as parties were extensions of those elsewhere in the Arab World. The nation- building began after that and went through very difficult times—the 1967 war and beyond.

The resumption of elections were only possible after we disengaged with the West Bank in 1988, which enabled the PLO to accept (United Nations Resolutions) 242 and 338, and for all the developments now resulting in self-rule to occur. We couldn't have elections before that, with half of what was legally Jordanian jurisdiction under occupation.

So, at the first opportunity, in 1989, we took the first step of holding general elections and developed a National Charter through a Royal Commission, with representatives of all schools of political thought in this country. A new constitution was formulated and our path towards genuine pluralism was charted. Now, there is no turning back.

The charter defines our system of government as a parliamentary, hereditary monarchy where government decisions are subject to the approval of a freely elected Parliament. While affirming that Islam is the religion of the state and Islamic law is the principal source of legislation, the charter guarantees tolerance and the right of citizens to hold varying opinions. It guarantees the right of political participation of all citizens and upholds the supremacy of the rule of law by rejecting violence as a means of affecting change. Jordanian men and women are equal under the law, and discrimination is forbidden on the basis of differences in race, language or religion.

GV: What is most interesting about Jordan's emergent political opening over the past few years is your expereince with Islamic militants. At one point a couple of years back, 40 per cent of the Parliament and five ministers were from the Muslim Brotherhood. Once seen as a threat, in this election they seem to be seen as just another alternative among many.

King: When popular movements are put to the test of government, people became aware of their limitations. And free people always tend toward pragmatism.

GV: So the Islamic Action Front of Jordan today is competing for election against scores of other groups and individuals with the slogan "Islam is the Solution." Meanwhile, Islamists are being executed weekly in Algeria and Egypt. Isn't democratic inclusion a better way to cope with the threat of militant Islam than repression?

King: Let me say this without reference to any other Arab state in particular: We are determined to make an example of something that can work, of something that the world can look at which reveals the true possibilities of Islamic society and deflects from the image presented by intolerant extremists, or perceived in ignorance by those who know little of Islamic faith and tradition.

In the short and long term, stability has to be augmented by people sharing and shaping their future through democratic institutions; by people exercising their rights and seeking their hopes through direct involvement in political life. I hope that Jordan will be an example of something that works, including for those who have given themselves the name of the Islamic Front because, after all, the country is Muslim as well as Christian. We are all one family equal under the law.

GV: So bringing people into the process breeds moderation; keeping them out through repression breeds extremism?

King: That ought to be obvious. There was a time when we were almost alone in this entire region, misunderstood and under tremendous pressure following the disaster of the Gulf War and the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq. I think, without our journey toward democracy and without the people forging the policies of this country, we wouldn't have survived. This is the kind of strength that is inherent in democratisation. There is no substitute for it.

Individual rulers come and go. Only institutions founded in the will of the people live on. That is what I hope will be my legacy to the future generations of this troubled region.

GV: Of course, there is no guarantee that more democracy in the Arab World, as demonstrated by Jordanian public attitudes about the United States and the coalition states during the Gulf War, will mean a more pro-Western attitude. Wouldn't it be a mistake for the West to assume so?

King: What democracy means is that people are free to determine their own sovereign decisions. Now let me be very clear about Jordan's position during the Gulf War. We were never in favour of Saddam Husayn and did not support Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait. Jordan was worried like every single Arab state, about fragmentation. We were worried about the human and material losses.

Jordan was not against the United States, but we were against the destruction of the Iraqi people made to suffer dearly for the policies of its leaders. We tried to resolve the problem in an Arab context, and failed. I was pained during the war when we were told by Americans that "You are either with us or against us," because our

friendship with the Americans is built on the principles and ideals on which that nation was founded and which we, in our own way in this moment, are embracing.

During the Cold War, Jordan was the only voice in this region standing up against the tide of communism that otherwise might have reached all the way to Africa.

GV: You have stood with the West, but will a democratic public?

King: I am sure.

Five Parties Seek Extension of Ballot Collection

JN2710124793 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 27 Oct 93 pp 1,5

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Suhayr 'Ubaydat]

[Excerpt] Amman—Five political parties Tuesday urged the Interior Ministry to extend the deadline for obtaining voters' cards in order to enable the largest number of registered voters to participate in the Nov. 8 polls.

In a letter addressed to Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad, the parties said that less than a third of the registered voters so far have collected their voting cards, without which voters cannot cast their ballot.

Ministry of Interior sources, however, say that 794,486 out of the country's 1.314 million registered voters had collected their cards by Monday noon. No figures were available Tuesday.

"In order to guarantee the largest popular participation in the coming elections and consolidate democratic values in society, we propose that you extend the deadline for distributing voting cards," until Nov. 7, the parties said.

The letter, a copy of which was made available to the Jordan Times, was signed by the general secretaries of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Progressive Arab Ba'th Party and the Jordan People's Democratic Party.

Reports had put the deadline at Oct. 28. Director of centres assigned to distribute voting cards say that the orders from the Ministry of Interior say the deadline is Nov. 1.

The Election Law does not specify a deadline for distributing the cards, and Ministry of Interior officials say that the process will continue as long as possible. [passage omitted]

Minister Sets 3 Nov Date for Ballot Pickup

JN2810120993 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 28-29 Oct 93 p 1

[By a JORDAN TIMES staff reporter]

[Excerpt] Amman—The deadline for Jordanians to collect their voting cards is Wednesday, Nov. 3, Minister of Interior Salamah Hammad announced Wednesday.

In an interview with Jordan Television, Mr. Hammad said that about one million voters would have collected their voting cards by today evening.

He said that the 951,433 of the country's 1.5 million registered voters have collected their cards, pointing out that this figure "is an indication of the people's awareness of the role they have to play and of their participation in the democratic process by their own will and by conviction."

Officials have said that they expect up to 1.2 million people to collect their voting cards and between 800,000 and one million to cast their ballots on Nov. 8.

That compares with about 700,000 who collected their cards and 550,000 who actually voted during the 1989 elections.

In his comments Wednesday, Mr. Hammad denied that the government had earlier set Thursday, Oct. 28 as the deadline for voters to collect their voting cards. "In fact, we did not set a specific date and I don't remember that I had declared a deadline," he added.

The extention aims at allowing people more time to receive their cards, without which they cannot cast their votes on Nov. 8. [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni Comments on Coordination With Jordan

JN2810075193 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Faysal al-Husayni, head of the steering committee within the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations, has reaffirmed the importance of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in all fields. He hoped that the Taba talks will achieve tangible progress. This came in a statement made by al-Husayni to our political affairs correspondent on his arrival in Amman today.

[Begin recording] [Al-Husayni] These talks began as scheduled. There are still some obstacles here and there. However, we hope that the formation and development of these committees and the issues that are currently being raised will achieve good results. What is important is that the raising of some basic issues, which could provide a suitable climate for continuing the peace process, has now started. Foremost of these issues is the release of detainees.

[Correspondent] How do you view Jordanian-Palestinian coordination in all fields, especially at this stage?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that Palestinian-Jordanian coordination is one of the main pillars of this political process. I also believe that this coordination is developing well. I am glad that the economic committee

achieved some results that require approval, in which case we can say that we are beginning to take steps in the right direction.

[Correspondent] Do you expect a detente on the Syrian and Lebanese track during the next round?

[Al-Husayni] I believe that by the end of this year, steps will have widened, especially regarding the Syrian-Lebanese track. [end recording]

Al-Majali Returns From UNESCO Conference

JN2710191293 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Salam al-Majali has returned home after addressing the UNESCO conference in Paris. The prime minister was received upon arrival by Information Minister Dr. Ma'n Abu-Nuwar, minister of State Mr. Ahmad al-'Aqayilah, and other high-ranking officials.

Hizballah Member on Purpose of Europe Tour

PM2810093093 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 25 Oct 93 p2

[Interview with "Hizballah Member and Beirut Deputy" al-Hajj Muhammad al-Burjawi by Bisharah Shirbil in London; date not given]

[Text] [Shirbil] What is a Hizballah delegation doing in European capitals?

[Al-Burjawi] The aim of the tour by the delegation, which consists of Shaykh Muhammad 'Atawi and myself, and is joined by some Lebanese people living in the countries we visit, is to make contact with the [Lebanese] communities and brief them on the situation in Lebanon and the region, and also to meet with some influential members of civilian societies and political forces.

[Shirbil] You have visited Switzerland, Germany, and Britain. What did you do in Switzerland?

[Al-Burjawi] We met officials of the International Red Cross Committee and submitted to them a memorandum about the condition of the detainees and prisoners in occupation prisons. We asked the Red Cross to enter al-Khiyam detention camp, which has been isolated from the world for eight years; we know that people were killed and wounded in that camp and we know that there are some sick people there who need treatment. The enemy still denies entry to any humanitarian delegation to examine the situation. We also served a reminder that the Red Cross was not allowed to visit 11 Lebanese prisoners in prisons in occupied Palestine. The prison terms of some of them ended six years ago but the Israeli authorities renew their detention every six months. I wish to say here that there was a response to what we submitted. Humanitarian organizations are always active in this connection but they get no response.

[Shirbil] Did you hold official talks in Germany?

[Al-Burjawi] The delegation's tour is not in response to official invitations but it was useful to meet with some figures and influential people to explain our views. In Germany we met with Professor Hoffler, official in charge of development and special relations in parliament, and we had a dialogue with him.

[Shirbil] Was the presence of Iranian Information Minister 'Ali Fallahian in Germany at the same time as you a mere coincidence?

[Al-Burjawi] It was a coincidence. I only learned of the Iranian minister's presence after coming to London.

[Shirbil] Did the German official with whom you met discuss with you the issue of the Israeli pilot Ron Arad and the issue of Muhammad Hamadi, who is in prison in Germany?

[Al-Burjawi] No. We have nothing to do with the issue of the pilot Arad. We did not broach the question of Hamadi. His people and brothers in Beirut are pursuing the matter.

[Shirbil] Are you collecting funds on this tour?

[Al-Burjawi] We have not done any collecting but one of the aims of our tour is to remind the [Lebanese] communities of their duties to the resistance in Lebanon and to their kinfolk and people, particularly when it comes to rebuilding what has been destroyed.

[Shirbil] Whom did you meet in London?

[Al-Burjawi] We met with members of some societies including the British-Arab Friendship Society and the British Council for Political Refugees. We also met with Sir David Steel, deputy leader of the Liberal Democratic Party, and we visited some Arab communities and Islamic centers.

[Shirbil] Did anyone discuss with you the possibility of arranging a meeting with Terry Waite, the former British hostage in Lebanon?

[Al-Burjawi] We met with representatives of the Anglican Church. They raised the idea. Our reply was that we had no objection if Terry Waite happened to be where we were.

[Shirbil] If you did happen to meet him would you apologize to him?

[Al-Burjawi] No, we would not apologize to him. We were not responsible for his kidnap. In fact, we might remonstrate with him for the accusations he made against us in his memoirs. He has to answer some of what has been said about his own connections, particularly his connection with Oliver North and the way he went to Beirut.

[Shirbil] Do you get the feeling that in Europe you stand accused?

[Al-Burjawi] There are a number of queries about several issues. We explain to the people we meet our views on the Palestinian question and the existence of the Zionist entity in the region and its aggressive policy. We pointed out to the people we met with that a continuation of that would have grave repercussions particularly as there is an awakening among the Islamic peoples who reject double standards. We also answered some questions regarding our position on the Gaza-Jericho agreement and our opposition to it.

[Shirbil] Have you decided to foil the agreement by force?

[Al-Burjawi] That is primarily the responsibility of the Palestinian people. Let me point out here that the situation is serious, because some of the people we met with now consider the Palestinian question to be a thing of the past. History has shown that some nations were denied their rights for hundreds of years, but in the end they managed to regain them.

[Shirbil] You continue to resist and to mount military operations in southern Lebanon. Would you be able to bear the consequences of that line in the event of a new wave of displacements?

[Al-Burjawi] We are resisting an occupation army. That is our legitimate national duty. Israel would not have withdrawn from most of the territory had it not been for the armed resistance. All the political pressures could not budge it. Experience has proved that Israel only understands the language of force and the gun.

[Shirbil] Your party has decided to resist but the majority of the Lebanese people support the peaceful solution. Is it logical for one party to decide for the people?

[Al-Burjawi] Without the resistance there would have been no state in Lebanon. Our resistance stems from the heart of the Lebanese people and is not a deviation from the people. There is massive noticeable support for the resistance. The evidence of that was provided through that demonstration of national unity at all levels when the recent aggression occurred. All sects of the Lebanese people helped by giving shelter to those who were displaced, their number reaching about 400,000. All the Lebanese people contributed to their return through the reconstruction done by the "Construction Jihad" Foundation.

[Shirbil] Is your decision to join the parliamentary game final or do you aspire to changes in Lebanon by other means?

[Al-Burjawi] Joining the Chamber of Deputies was a decision made by the people. We accept what the people decide and are prepared to implement it. In the Chamber we support the people and we try to obstruct some projects which deprive the people of their rights. Our aim is to ensure freedom and justice for the Lebanese people through a just system. We will also try hard to abolish political sectarianism.

[Shirbil] How do you view Speaker Nabih Birri's proposal to make Lebanon just one single electoral constituency?

[Al-Burjawi] That is what we proposed ourselves. It was one of the main articles of our electoral program. We believe that it would achieve national cohesion.

[Shirbil] Is that cohesion pretext not an attempt to cover up the hegemony of one sect over the other sects?

[Al-Burjawi] We accept no hegemony and we do not want one sect to be unjust to another nor, in other words, do we want a group of people from one sect forging an alliance with a group of people from other sects to be unjust to the Lebanese people. We would not allow that, under any name, to be used as a pretext for controlling our fate.

Hizballah Leader Calls for Government's Ouster

NC2510083493 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 25 Oct 93

[Text] To mark 40 days since the massacre perpetrated by the Lebanese political authority against the Resistance men [when the Army shot demonstrators in Beirut's Southern Suburb, who were protesting the Palestinian-Israeli Accord], a ceremony was held yesterday at which several speakers delivered addresses. They stressed that the blood of the nine martyrs who fell on 13 September will not be wasted, but will be the compass that will guide the struggle of honest men until they take revenge.

Hizballah's secretary general, His Eminence Hasan Nasrallah, stressed that those who destroyed the might of the U.S. marines and the multinational forces and debunked the legend of the Israeli army have emerged anew for the confrontation. As we were the beginning of the Resistance and the vanguard of jihad, we will be the beginning of rejection and the vanguard of confrontation. He said: The massacre took place because we are not allowed to raise our voice in the face of the Americans.

Nasrallah said the rulers in Lebanon seek personal influence, whereas Israel works to control Lebanon and its resources. All the Lebanese authority is doing is trying to establish a repressive regime to silence all voices opposed to the U.S. and Zionist plans. He stressed that the blood of the nine martyrs will not be wasted. He called again for removing the government, which foments sedition rather than fosters unity, destroys rather than builds, represses rather than promotes freedom, and kills rather than enhances security. Addressing the Lebanese, he said: O Lebanese, your president is a murderer and a butcher. Your prime minister is a murderer and butcher. If you are concerned about this state and if you want a state where there are no murderers, you must act to expel the killers from the government.

Resistance Clashes With Israelis, SLA Updated

Two Hizballah Fighters Wounded by Raid

NC2710131393 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Israeli warplanes raided two Hizballah positions in Jabal Safi and Mlita, which overlook Iqlim al-Tuffah, this afternoon. Security sources said two Hizballah fighters were wounded and that columns of smoke had been seen above the targeted positions.

As of 1330, the Israeli troops began to bombard the villages adjacent to the occupied border zone in the central and western sectors with 155-mm artillery. Meanwhile, the areas close to the villages of Haddathah and Sribbin and the outskirts of Jibbin were raked.

UN Unit Hit by Israeli Shelling

NC2710155993 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] At 1500 today, two Israeli helicopters raked the forests of Yatar and Jibal al-Butm, using large-caliber machine guns. A third helicopter raked Wadi 'Ashur area, between Haris and Dayr 'Amis.

At 1300 today, the occupation forces shelled the al-Huqban hill, which overlooks Kafra, in the Bint Jubayl district. Some shells fell in the area of the Nepalese UN contingent.

At 1630, two reconnaissance aircraft flew over the area.

Amal Attacks Israeli Emplacements

NC2710195793 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The Amal Movement's operations headquarters in the south has announced that one of its groups attacked an advance post of the Israeli occupation forces near the Rshaf position at dawn today. The Amal fighters shelled the post with 82-mm mortars.

The Amal statement said that, at the same time, another of its groups attacked the Haddathah position with machine guns and rockets. The losses suffered by the personnel manning the two positions could not be determined because the occupation forces set up a security cordon around the area.

Hizballah: 2 Israelis Die in Ambush

NC2810075593 Ba'labakk Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic 0630 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] The Zionist occupation troops continued their aggression against the areas adjacent to the occupied part of the south. Enemy helicopters last night raked the Nahr al-Litani River basin and the outskirts of the liberated areas, while warplanes flew over the river basin and dropped thermal balloons. The Zionist helicopters flew low-altitude sorties over Marj 'Uyun, where the Zionist general command headquarters is located in the occupied zone.

In another development, Zionist artillery bombarded a number of areas in the western al-Biqa' last evening. According to security sources, over 25 shells targeted the boundaries of Qilya and Birkat Jabbur. In the meantime, flares dropped by enemy helicopters lit up the skies of the region.

Zionist warplanes raided the Jabal Safi and Mlita hills yesterday afternoon. The planes drew concentrated ground fire from the Islamic Resistance positions.

In another development, the Martyr Hasan 'Abbas group of the Islamic Resistance ambushed a Zionist patrol at Birkat al-Naqiyah near Bra'shit last night. The mujahidin attacked the patrol with rockets and machine guns, killing and wounding its members. The mujahidin confirmed that two Zionists were seen dead.

Al-Shar' Speech Covers Peace Talks, Gaza-Jericho

JN2710184393 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1625 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Damascus SANA in Arabic at 1710 GMT on 27 October transmits a service message killing the item that appears below and requesting that it be replaced with a subsequent version, filed as jn2710181893, which is published immediately following this item]

[Text] Damascus, 27 Oct (SANA)—Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stressed that Syria under the leadership of President Hafiz al- Asad possesses the force that can prevent it from relinquishing any of its rights. He said: Syria, based on its resources, capabilities, and faith in its people's capabilities and national unity, will only accept an honorable, just, and comprehensive peace.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' made these remarks in the lecture he delivered at the party cadre indoctrination course at the University of Damascus today on the achievements of the glorious Corrective Movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad. The course is organized by the Damascus University branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, in the presence of Ahmad Dirgham, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and head of the party's regional indoctrination bureau, Comrade Dr. Muhammad Faruq Abu-al-Shamat, secretary of the Damascus University branch of the Ba'th Party, and Comrade Haytham Duwayhi, chairman of the National Federation of Syrian Students.

Al-Shar' said: The Syrian Arab people will only accept a just and comprehensive peace, if it was available. However, if there are conditions that are unsatisfactory to them, then Syria will not accept such peace. This is Syria's stand under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad.

Al-Shar' affirmed that the Corrective Movement, led by President Hafiz al-Asad, has turned Syria into a country that has a great position, and that President al-Asad is a world leader, respected by enemies before friends. He noted: The Corrective Movement enabled Syria to deal with international developments wisely, bravely, and flexibly, and with the ability to maintain a firm strategy regardless of difficulties in the Arab and international arenas. Here lies the secret of its greatness.

The foreign minister clarified: Syria adheres to a comprehensive solution, to the Palestinian people's inalienable rights, and to the Madrid peace formula. It will never relinquish an inch of the Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

Al-Shar' added that Syria will not participate in a new, futile round of talks unless Israel shows commitment to fully withdraw from the occupied Syrian Golan and to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the region in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which were the basis of the Madrid peace talks. Only then, can the cosponsors of the conference—that is, the United States and Russia—address invitations for resuming the talks in Washington.

Turning to the Gaza-Jericho accord, al-Shar' said that this agreement is neither in the interest of the Palestinian people nor in the interest of a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He added: We, in Syria, neither supported nor opposed the agreement. However, we said that it is detrimental to the Arab nation and to the existing coordination among the Arab parties.

Al-Shar' noted that this agreement kept the substantial matters unresolved. Regrettably, he added, the agreement gave the Israeli side things that were not required from the Palestinian side, such as security and economic cooperation. He said that there are 30 items in the accord and its annexes, each of which needs new negotiations.

Regarding the current Arab situation, al-Shar' stressed that the Iraq-Iran war and the Gulf war were a basic cause of the deterioration in the Arab situation. He said that the consequences of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, which was a disaster to the Arab nation, did not only hit the Iraqi people, but also the whole Arab nation.

The minister added that Syria would adhere to the Damascus Declaration even if peace is achieved in the region in order to prevent new concepts outside the Arab framework.

In his lecture, the minister also touched on Syria's firm and principled policy toward many current issues, in both the Arab and international arenas.

Al-Shar' welcomed Europe's role, in addition at the U.S. role, in achieving progress in the peace talks, referring to the understanding of Europe and the United States of Syria's position toward the peace process in light of the resolutions of the international legitimacy.

Concluding his lecture, the foreign minister responded to questions from participants in the course.

The lecture was attended by the assistant foreign minister, members of the party's university command, the members of the Executive Bureau of the National Federation of Syrian Students, party and union cadres at the university, and members of the training staff.

SANA Transmits Alternate Version

JN2710181893 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1710 GMT 27 Oct 93

[SANA carries the following version of Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's lecture at the University of Damascus on 27 Oct after transmitting a service message killing the item that appears above, JN2710184393]

[Text] Damascus, 27 Oct (SANA)—"Syria's Foreign Policy Under the Corrective Movement," was the title of the comprehensive statement Foreign Minister Faruq

al-Shar' made at the meeting called by the Damascus University branch of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party today.

Attending the meeting were Ahmad Dirgham, member of the Regional Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and head of the party's regional indoctrination bureau, Comrade Faruq Abu-al-Shamat, secretary of the Damascus University branch of the Ba'th Party, members of the branch, Comrade Haytham Duwayhi, head of the Executive Bureau of the National Federation of Syrian Students, and Executive Bureau members. Faculty deans, their deputies, and heads of sections at the University of Damascus also attended the meeting.

Faruq al-Shar' reviewed the development of the international situation after the end of the cold war, and the emergence of national, ethnic, social, and economic conflicts in the international arena. The minister gave as examples events in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the suffering of the Bosnian people, what is taking place in Georgia and Tajikistan, the continuing conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, and what is taking place in Afghanistan, Burundi, Somalia, Angola, and South Africa.

Al-Shar' referred particularly to what has been taking place in Russia since the fragmentation of the Soviet Union. He pointed out that the existing conflict in Russia is not a power conflict inasmuch as it is a conflict over the new form of the future political, economic, and social system in Russia.

The foreign minister also spoke about the deteriorating Arab situation as a result of the Gulf war and the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. He stressed that Syria adopted the sound stand at the appropriate time to stop further deterioration in the Arab situation.

He said: In light of this situation, Syria exerted continuous efforts in the Arab and international arenas to secure the best possible international formula to achieve a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on the termination of the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories in accordance with the resolutions of the United Nations and the international legitimacy.

The foreign minister added: In this context, the Madrid conference was convened to implement UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, as well as Resolutions 425 on Lebanon. It was also convened to enforce the principle of giving back the occupied Arab territory in return for peace.

Al-Shar' said: Israel has been seeking to separate the Syrian track from other tracks. Meanwhile, Syria firmly adhered to a comprehensive solution and the Palestinian people's rights. In this stand, Syria proceeded from its conviction that a comprehensive peace is the instrument that guarantees the restoration of Arab rights and the realization of security and stability in the region.

In his lecture, the foreign minister discussed the Palestinian- Israeli agreement and its effects on the peace process. He reviewed the process which led to this agreement and the impact of all this on Arab coordination.

Al-Shar' indicated that the most dangerous development that the Arabs might face at the end of the peace process is a peace that is built on doubts and differences among Arab states, rather than a peace that is built on mutual trust and cooperation.

The foreign minister indicated that Syria dealt with the international changes and circumstances wisely and bravely, and with the peace process in a principled and flexible manner. Hence the international community's understanding of Syria's position and support for its just demands that are based on justice and the resolutions of the United Nations and the international legitimacy.

The foreign minister affirmed that Syria is eager to achieve a just, comprehensive peace and to make the peace process attain its goal. He said that this stand proceeds from Syria's firm belief in the need to secure the restoration of all occupied Arab territories and from its adherence to Arab rights and rejection of all forms of Israeli extortion and policy of procrastination.

Concluding his political lecture, the foreign minister said: Syria would have not been able to wage these hard battles and overcome major difficulties had it not been for the thought and course of the Corrective Movement under President Hafiz al-Asad. This thought and course, he said, have spared Syria numerous risks and placed it in its appropriate and distinguished place in the Arab and international arena.

Al-Shar' Warns Jordan Against 'Deal' With Israel

JN2710132693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today warned Jordan against concluding a separate peace treaty with Israel because this will have negative repercussions on its internal situation and on its stability. In a statement to the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR, al-Shar' reiterated Syria's rejection of any separate or secret talks with Israel.

The Syrian foreign minister added that the Israeli-Palestinian talks aimed at implementing the Gaza-Jericho accord will continue for the next 10 years due to the obstacles facing this accord.

Further on al-Shar' Warning

JN2710185593 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 27 Oct 92

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' expects the Palestinian-Israeli talks to continue for more than 10 years due to obstacles facing the 13 September accord. In a statement to the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR, al-Shar' said the accord faces major difficulties and obstacles. He said: I believe there are obstacles which

will make Israel go back on essential issues that were left for the coming stage. Talks on these issues will continue for more than 10 years, he said.

The Syrian foreign minister reiterated Syria's rejection of any separate or secret talks with Israel, despite Israeli attempts to make the talks revolve in a vicious circle in order to hold Syria responsible for its failure.

Al-Shar' warned Jordan against concluding a separate peace treaty with Israel because this will have negative repercussions on its internal situation and on its stability. He said: We believe Jordan has no interest in walking a path that leads to a separate peace treaty with Israel because this will complicate the situation in Jordan, instead of leading to stability. He added: We warned against the dangers of this approach out of Syria's concern that Jordan will not be exposed to anything that will affect its security and stability.

The Syrian minister affirmed the failure of the attempts to separate the Lebanese track from the Syrian track. He said: The attempts to isolate Lebanon will not succeed due to practical, historical, and realistic reasons. Furthermore, he said, the cosponsors of the talks firmly believe that the Syrian and Lebanese tracks must not be separated.

Al-Shar': Gaza-Jericho Undermines Regional Peace

NC2710183193 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1630 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has said he is satisfied with Lebanese-Syrian coordination. In an interview with the newspaper AL-DIYAR, he declared: Progress on the Golan Heights issue will complement progress on the south Lebanon issue.

Al-Shar' said that any attempt to deal with Lebanon apart from Syria will never succeed and that separating the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks cannot work for historical and practical reasons. He said the sponsors of the peace negotiations believe these two negotiating tracks must not be separated.

Minister al-Shar' emphasized that Syria and Lebanon constitute a single party to the conflict, but that each one has a role to play. He continued: The Arabs will not have to accept an imposed peace if they maintain their firm positions, independent decisionmaking, and their own capability. Syrian policy is clear and comprehensible to all those who wish to achieve peace.

Al-Shar' said all the parties believe that regional peace is not possible without Syria or without a comprehensive, just peace. He said he believes Israel's interest lies in piecemeal solutions, whereas the Arab interest lies in a secure, stable, and prosperous peace.

Minister al-Shar' remarked that if Israel finds the Palestinian- Israeli agreement sufficient, this is something very serious. He declared: We did not join the Madrid conference so that Israel could achieve a separate peace. Syrian policy is clear and understood. There is a major Israeli deception to prevent peace.

Al-Shar' said any departure from the facts as seen through Lebanese-Syrian eyes might cause major damage, especially for the Lebanese nation. The Syrian foreign minister said: Doubtless, the United States has a real interest in establishing regional peace and stability.

Al-Shar' revealed that American and Israeli views vary somewhat over steps to ensure the success of the peace process in line with the Madrid conference. Yet, there are no differences between Syria and the United States.

He stressed the importance of international cooperation involving both the cosponsors of the Madrid conference and the European countries to impose [fard] a just, comprehensive peace on the region.

Al-Shar' said: Lebanon and Syria must try to persuade the fraternal Arab countries not to get caught in the trap of the Israeli strategy, which seeks only its own interests.

He added: Clearly, Israel is trying to convince the United States and Europe that the Palestinian problem was solved with the signing of the Gaza-Jericho Agreement. Israel neglected to say that the agreement undermined its government's ability to move closer to the Syrian and Lebanese positions to implement a comprehensive solution based on the land-for-peace principle.

Al-Shar' announced that the PLO's extensive concessions and its postponing the handling of basic issues belie the Israeli claim that the Palestinian issues has been resolved.

Minister al-Shar' concluded: If Israel imagines it has achieved a great victory by signing an agreement, sees no urgency in pursuing the peace process on the Syrian and Lebanese tracks, and feels that the peace issue has been settled and that other Arab states wish to normalize ties with it, this will have very serious negative repercussions for the Palestinian track and for the entire region.

Al-Shar': No Separate or Secret Israel Talks

JN2710220893 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has affirmed Syria's rejection of any separate or secret talks with Israel. In a statement to the Lebanese newspaper AL-DIYAR, al-Shar' said this rejection is due to an Israeli attempt, following the Palestinian- Israeli agreement, to complete a process of separate peace aimed at extricating the bilateral negotiations from the Madrid formula, making them move into a state of vacuum, and holding Syria responsible for the failure of negotiations.

Al-Shar' expressed Syria's confidence in the adherence of U.S. President Bill Clinton's administration to the principles of the peace process, which began during former U.S. President George Bush's era. These are based on clinging to the Madrid formula of a comprehensive and

just solution, based on the land-for-peace principle and the implementation of international resolutions.

Al-Shar' said that the position of British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd reflected a British position that is convinced of Syria's viewpoint to the effect that no new rounds of negotiations would be held in Washington in anticipation of any surprises, if the desired breakthrough is not achieved.

The foreign minister added: At the same time, the resumption of bilateral peace talks in Washington should not be delayed for more than some weeks.

Al-Shar' indicated that during his recent visit to Saudi Arabia, he sensed a Saudi affirmation that it stands alongside both Syria and a comprehensive and just solution. Al-Shar' voiced satisfaction with the contacts held with the Arab states that constantly adhered to the Arab boycott of Israel and with their conviction that lifting this boycott can only take place after achieving a comprehensive peace.

Regarding the attempt to separate the Lebanese track from the Syrian track, al-Shar' said this attempt has not succeeded and will not succeed. He voiced satisfaction with the good coordination with the Lebanese Government. Al-Shar' said that any departure from reality in viewing the need by Lebanon and Syria for each other might lead to serious mistakes, and would inflict damage on the entire Lebanese people.

The foreign minister said the Arab and international position now supports the Syrian viewpoint, which—during the recent contacts with various capitals—stressed its concern for a just and comprehensive peace process in the Middle East, which would achieve a state of stability and prosperity at a time when Israel is trying to impose a solution in harmony with its scheme that aims to make Israel the strongest party in the region and to subjugate the peace settlement to Israel's hegemony and vision.

The foreign minister said that Israel is suggesting to the world that the solution to the Palestine question has been realized, and calls on the Arab states to establish relations and normalization. Israel also treats these states as if they have lost their vision and position. However, the Arabs are not so naive as to believe that the Palestine question has been resolved and that peace has been achieved, he added.

Al-Shar' pointed to the presence of contrasts between the U.S. strategic view and the Israeli view concerning the next steps according to the Madrid formula, at a time when there are no differences between Syria and the United States over these steps.

Al-Shar' said that Syria's policy is clear and understood by all those interested in achieving a real, just, and comprehensive peace. This policy is highly appreciated, and all the Arab and foreign delegations which met with President Hafiz al-Asad emerged with a clear conviction that Syria's analysis of its position is right, and that Syria is actually serious in following up the peace process according to Madrid's bases, the land-for-peace principle, and the implementation of Security Council resolutions.

Al-Shar' added that all those who met with President al-Asad and listened to his statements as well as those who did not meet with him and did not closely follow up the Syrian policy have very clearly realized that there will be no peace without Syria.

Al-Ahmar Receives Lebanese Phalangist Delegation

JN2710131993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1215 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, today received the Lebanese Phalangist Party delegation led by Party Secretary General Karim Baqraduni.

The delegation includes Simon al-Khazin, Emile 'Id, and Joseph Qusayfi, from the Phalangist Party command.

Dr. Fayiz Shukr, member of the Lebanese regional command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, attended the meeting.

The talks dealt with relations between the two parties, developments in the Arab region, and issues of joint interest.

During the meeting, Phalangist Party Secretary General Karim Baqraduni handed an invitation to the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party command to attend the Phalangist Party congress which will be held in November.

Forest Fires Destroy 15 Km of Latakia Woodlands

PM2710100893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 Oct 93 p 4

[Salwa al-Ustuwani report: "Fire in Latakia Governorate Destroys 15 Km of Dense Forest"]

[Text] Damascus—A big fire yesterday destroyed thousands of acres of pine forests in the Wadi al-Azhar area in the Latakia Governorate on the Syrian Mediterranean coast. The fires continued until the night and covered an area 15 km long and with a depth ranging from tens to hundreds of meters.

Security sources have said that more than 1,500 people from the various official services took part in extinguishing the fire. This is in addition to fire engines, bulldozers, and trucks from the governorates of Latakia, Tartus, Hims, Hamah, Idlib, Aleppo, and al-Suwayda'.

Official sources said that the speed with which the huge fire spread was attributable to the prevalent drought and the speed of the easterly wind.

Senior Latakia officials monitored the fire extinguishing operation. Syrian Interior Minister Muhammad Harbah

arrived in the scene and participated in guiding the manpower extinguishing the fire; there were 2,000 men. Citizens, too, participated in extinguishing the fire for fear of it spreading to their homes. Eyewitnesses said that very large fire engines were brought to the scene. Trucks and bulldozers from most governorates took part. People saw how the fire surrounded the firemen more than once. They engaged in a ferocious battle with the fire, which cut off the main roads and power. The firemen are still continuing their work in the area and from the base of the mountains, while the security services continue their inquires to determine the cause of the fire.

Reports say that the fire has caused great losses, as this is the first time a fire has destroyed such a huge area of woodland—a 15-km long area.

Men of the internal security forces are still continuing their inquiries to determine who caused the fire and take legal measures against them.

It is worth mentioning that last week Latakia Governorate witnessed a series of fires—about 20 fires—in the pine and oak forests. They destroyed hundreds of acres of forests.

Afghanistan

Foreign Minister Meets Bhutto on Pakistan Stopover

LD2710200093 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] Esteemed Hedayat Amin Arsala, minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic State of Afghanistan, who visited New York to attend the 48th session of the UN General Assembly, arrived in Islamabad on his way back from New York to Kabul. He met with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and congratulated her on her election as prime minister of Pakistan. During the meeting, which was held in an atmosphere of friendship and understanding, the two sides discussed issues concerning friendly relations and the development of mutually useful cooperation between Afghanistan and Pakistan. Also today Foreign Minister Hedayat Amin Arsala met separately with Pierre Lafrance, the French ambassador in Islamabad, with (Aykut Cetirge), the Turkish ambassador in Kabul, and (Mustafa Ahmad Hanafi), the Egyptian ambassador.

This afternoon Hedayat Amin Arsala met with Sotirios Mousouris, the UN secretary general's special envoy on Afghanistan and Pakistan, and [John Cameron] Monjo, the U.S. ambassador in Islamabad. The Afghan ambassador, Sardar Mohammad Roshan, was also present at these meetings. During the meetings talks were held on issues of interest and on mutually useful relations.

Pakistan to Transport Oil, Expedite Food Convoys

LD2610202293 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 Oct 93

[Text] Esteemed Engineer Qotboddin Helal, first deputy prime minister, met with Amir Osman, ambassador extraordinary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan in Kabul, in the premier's palace this afternoon. A source in the premier's office reported that during the meeting the first deputy premier congratulated Amir Osman on the success of esteemed Benazir Bhutto, the new prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, in recent elections.

In reply the ambassador extraordinary of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan spoke about the consolidation of good relations between the Islamic State of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and added: Pakistan has taken a serious step for the transportation of oil to the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan by exempting [Afghanistan] from a tax of 11 million Pakistani rupees on tankers carrying oil. It is also planned to speed up the dispatch of convoys carrying wheat.

Finally, esteemed Amir Osman added: The arrival of 15 trucks carrying winter clothes and medicines for distribution to the families of the martyres, aid from the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, is expected in Kabul.

WHO To Supply Food for Kabul Hospitals

LD2710202393 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The World Health Organization [WHO] has shown readiness to provide food for the hospitals of the Academy of Science, Jamhoriat, Wazir Akbar Khan, and the Karta-e Seh surgical hospital. This matter was discussed today at a meeting between Deputy Public Helath Minister Sadroddin Sahar and the head of the WHO office in Kabul.

BAKHTAR reports that this organization wants to send vital medicines to clinics in Balkh, Herat, and Badakhshan provinces. Convoys of food organized by the WHO have also arrived in Kabul and more convoys are due in Kabul in the near future.

Iran

'Major Military' Attack on Kurds Expected

PM2710165093 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 93 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Amid Reports of Expected Campaign Against Kurdish Opposition, Iranian Military Reinforcements on Border With Iraq"]

[Excerpt] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—Iran has begun to reinforce its forces in the northeastern regions of the country in what analysts say will be a major military operation inside Iraqi territory. As for the operation's target, it is the bases used by opposition groups in addition to the villages where the hostile Kurdish tribes live.

Military analysts expect these military operations to begin within a few weeks, before the beginning of the winter, when it would difficult to mobilize large numbers of troops. It is also difficult for helicopters to land in mountainous areas in the winter.

Iranian authorities have for some time been preparing public opinion for these operations. Early this week Colonel Mohammad Naqdi, chief of the Armed Forces intelligence organ, raised the issue in an unusual interview published by the Tehran press. He said that "international arrogance"—a phrase used by Iranian propaganda against the United States—is arming Iran's adversaries and encouraging them to launch attacks from bases inside Iraq.

He said that this is part of "a big and complex conspiracy" designed to undermine the Islamic republic and foment sedition in many areas of the country.

An analyst of Iranian affairs in Washington says that "Naqdi is expressing real fear." The Iranian leadership fears the possibility of the Iranian opposition's seizing parts of the country's territory and establishing a kind of a separatist authority there, and then calling on the major states to protect it in the name of human rights.

Such a development could encourage the regime's adversaries to emerge publicly throughout the country.

Reports say that two of the three targeted groups are Kurdish. The biggest is the Iranian Democratic Party, which tried some years ago to initiate a dialogue with the present leadership in Tehran. But this led to the assassination of eight of its senior leaders by elements who alleged they were murderers hired by Tehran.

At its last general congress in May, the party decided to pursue the policy of armed struggle and to begin to attack. This decision made reconciliation with the Kurdish Communist Party (Komeleh) possible.

The two groups stopped the fighting between them and began to plan joint operations against Iranian military positions across the border with Iraq. Estimates indicate that the two groups have a joint force of some 6,000 fighters.

As for the third armed group, it is the Iranian Liberation Army belonging to Mojahedin-e Khalq. It has some 2,200 fighters. It has also obtained about 30 tanks and a number of armored vehicles and long-range artillery from Iraq.

Tehran expects the fighters' attack to be launched from the Kurdish safe haven in Iraq and from around it. The reason is that Baghdad does not want to provoke a direct confrontation with Tehran at present.

The situation on Iran's border with the "safe haven" has been tense over the past few weeks, and Iranian forces have from time to time shelled a suspected opposition base. [passage omitted]

Gulf Missile Maneuvers Successfully Concluded

LD2710184593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The Lightning-3 joint land-to-sea missile maneuvers ended successfully after seven days. According to a report by the Central News Unit, the maneuvers—led by the missile command of the Khatem ol-'Anbia [Seal of the Prophets] base, the missile teams of the navies of the Revolution Guards and the army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, in cooperation with several units from the first and second sea regions and the air forces of the army and the Revolution Guards, successfully carried out—in five tactical and technical stages—tests of missile systems, commando and anti-commando operations, active and passive defense, modern warfare defense, damage control, radio communications, deployments and counter-deployments, exchange of intelligence between operation rooms, security and escort duties, and radar operations in the Persian Gulf and the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

Hardliners Seek To Weaken Hashemi-Rafsanjani

PM2810112893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 26 Oct 93 p 4

[Unattributed report: "With Support From Khamene'i To Weaken Rafsanjani, Iranian Hard-Liners Pledge To Recover Their Positions"]

[Text] Tehran, London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The "Militant Clerics Association" [breakaway group] announced in a statement issued in Tehran yesterday its intention of resuming its political activities and working to recover the positions it lost inside the political establishment in Iran.

In its statement, the association said that it has opened its central club in Tehran and intends to open offices in 157 cities before the end of the Iranian year, which ends on 21 March 1994.

The association is led by prominent and hard-line figures, among them former Majles Speaker Mehdi Karrubi, former Interior Minister 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, and former revolutionary prosecutor general Mohammad Musavi-Kho'iniha. The association lost most of its seats in the general elections last April. It was said then that the main reason was that the revolution's guide, 'Ali Khamene'i, has strongly backed President Hashemi-Rafsanjani against hard-liners. The association's sources say that it was Khamene'i who inspired the new step—which has been interpreted by analysts as the start of a shift in the present political alliances.

The sources said that to confirm this position Khamene'i's new paper JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI published the [association's] statement in its recent issue.

Analysts believe that Khamene'i has allowed hard-liners to reorganize their ranks to weaken Rafsanjani and limit his powers. Orders were issued to Iranian Government departments yesterday to begin to remove any employees suspected of belonging to banned religions, political parties, or unions.

Estimates indicate that tens of thousands of government employees, who total 2.2 million, could be affected by these operations.

The intended cleansing operation is based on the emergency law approved by the Islamic Council this week. It is aimed primarily against religious sects which the ruling mullah regard as "heresies." As all political parties are banned in Iran, anyone suspected of belonging to any political group opposed to the government will be included in the purge.

Government employees are also banned from joining labor unions, organizing strikes, or participating in demonstrations without prior permission from the authorities. The group targeted in this measure is oil and gas workers who took part in a series of strikes. From now on they will face the possibility of immediate dismissal without compensation if they participate in strikes.

West Puts 'Political' Slant on Egypt Shootings

NC2810090293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0445 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Commentary by the News Commentaries Group]

[Text] Even though the Egyptian Government has stated that the man who attacked the Western tourists in Cairo, killing two Americans and one Frenchman, was insane and not related in any way to the Egyptian Islamists, Western political circles are nevertheless studying this issue within a completely political framework. The fact that the attack on the Westerners in Egypt coincided with similar incidents in Algeria this past week has given rise to the thought among Western political circles that the attacks on the Westerners in the Middle East may be organized acts with political objectives.

In order to prevent a comparison of the political attacks on tourists by the Egyptian Islamists with the latest incident, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak personally stated that this attack was not organized and resembles the violence that is seen every day in the West. But in spite of this, Western political circles continue to view the issue within a political framework. Even though violence may exist in the West because of the availability of weapons and because of psychological and cultural problems, Western concern in this case stems from the fact that the situation in Egypt is completely different from the situation in the West, and the possession of a machine gun by a person—who is described as insane, at that—is not normal at all.

Accord on Technical Exchanges Signed With ROK

LD2810114993 Tehran IRNA in English 1020 GMT 28 Oct 93

[Text] Tehran, Oct. 28, IRNA—Iran and the Republic of Korea signed a letter of understanding here Wednesday [27 October] for the exchange of technical know-how and experts.

The agreement was reached between the visiting deputy labor minister of Korean Republic, Kim Hun-ki, and Iranian deputy labor minister for employment, E. Sorkho.

According to the agreement, the two countries will exchange know-how in such fields as technical and professional training, employment in micro-industry and rural sector as well as rehabilitation of the disabled.

South Korean companies active in Iran will gradually render technical and professional training to Iranian trainees in the same method being practiced in their own country.

Swiss-Iranian Broadcasting Agreement Signed

LD2710194593 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 27 Oct 93

[Text] The expansion of technical and program-making cooperation was stressed at a meeting between Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, head of the Islamic Republic of Iran's Voice and Vision Organization, and the director general of the Swiss Broadcasting Corporation [SBC].

According to the Central News Unit, Mr. Mohammad Hashemi, who traveled to Berne at the invitation of Mr. Antonio Riva, the director general of SBC, at their meeting today discussed ways to expand technical and program-making cooperation between the two organizations. An agreement to this effect was signed at the end of the meeting.

Also today, the head of the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran inspected SBC equipment and installations.